

A COMPLETE
HISTORY
OF THE
PRESENT WAR,
FROM
Its Commencement in 1756,
TO THE
End of the Campaign, 1760.

IN WHICH,

All the BATTLES, SIEGES, and SEA-ENGAGEMENTS;
with every other Transaction worthy of public
Attention, are faithfully recorded; with Political
and Military Observations.

L O N D O N :

Printed for W. OWEN, at Temple-Bar; L. DAVIS
and C. REYMERS, in Holborn; and J. SCOTT,
in Pater-Noster Row. MDCCLXI.

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THE author of the following sheets hath endeavoured; to the utmost of his abilities, to give the Public a succinct and impartial History of the present War.—No slave to faction, no dupe to prejudice; he hath represented facts as they really happened. It is the business of history to record; not to flatter. The candour of the public is requested for a work, the design of which is certainly commendable: How it is executed the reader must determine.

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A

H I S T O R Y

OF THE

W A R.

C H A P. I.

Origin of the war. Acts of hostility committed by France in America. The french incroachments there. The english ambassador remonstrates against their proceedings. Major Washington's expedition. Monckton reduces Beaufejour, and other forts in Nova Scotia, Other transactions in America, till the end of 1754. General Braddock appointed to command in chief, and arrives in Virginia. He marches against Fort du Quesne. Is defeated by the french. Consequences of his defeat. Reflections.

TO enquire into the origin of the war, it will be necessary to look back almost to the peace of Aix la Chapelle, in the year 1748; for we shall find, that very soon after that treaty, the french laid the foundations for a future war. In order to perceive this more clearly, I shall take a particular view of the proceedings of France in North America (the country in which the late commotions first began) from the abovementioned time.

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In the year 1749, some english american traders commenced a traffic with the indians, on the banks of the river Ohio. The french knowing the importance of that country, were desirous to prevent us from trading, or having any communication with those indians; they threatned them with the confiscation of their goods, and imprisonment of their persons, if they did not retire, from what, they were pleased to call, their master's territories. Many of the traders immediately withdrew, on receiving this insolent menace; but several others, knowing their own just right, had more spirit; and continued their traffic as usual, notwithstanding the threats denounced against them: and accordingly in 1750, the marquis de la Jonquiere, at that time governor of Canada, sent several detachments of troops to the Ohio, to put their former threats in execution; which they did by seizing four english traders, and confiscating their goods, sending them prisoners to Quebec, from whence they were brought to Rochelle in France, and there detained in prison. These englishmen soon after their arrival at Rochelle, wrote to the earl of Albemarle, our ambassador at Paris, complaining of the ill usage they had received: upon which, that minister wrote a letter to the earl of Holdernesse, secretary of state to the king of England; of which the following is an extract.

“ Paris, march 1, 1752.

I must acquaint your lordship, that in the month of november I received a letter from three persons, signing themselves, John Patton, Luke Irwin, and Thomas Bourke; representing to me, that they were englishmen, who had been brought to Rochelle, and put into prison there, from whence they wrote; having been taken by the french subjects, who seized their effects, as they were trading with the english, and other indians on the Ohio, and carried prisoners to Quebec; from whence they have been sent over to Rochelle,

Rochelle, where they were hardly used. Upon this information, I applied to M. St. Contest, and gave him a note of it; claiming them, as the king's subjects, and demanding their liberty, and the restitution of their effects that had been unjustly taken from them.

These three persons, I find by the paper your lordship has sent me, are of the number of those demanded of the french by Mr. Clinton, and named in M. de la Jonquiere's letter. I have wrote to a merchant at Rochelle to enquire after them, and to supply them with money, to make their journey hither, if they are not gone; that I may receive from them all the informations necessary. On my seeing M. St. Contest next tuesday, I will represent the case to him, in obedience to his majesty's commands, that la Jonquiere may have positive orders, to desist from the unjustifiable proceedings complained of; to release any of his majesty's subjects he may still detain in prison; and make ample restitution of their effects. And I shall take care to show him the absolute necessity of sending instructions to their several governors, not to attempt any such encroachments for the future."

And on the 8th of march lord Albemarle further writes to the earl of Holderneffe.

" I am now to acquaint your lordship, that I saw M. Rouille yesterday; and that having drawn up a note of the several complaints I had received orders to make of la Jonquiere's conduct, I delivered it to him, and told him, in general, the contents of it; insisting on the necessity, for preserving the good understanding betwixt his majesty and the most christian king, of sending such positive orders to all their governors, as might effectually prevent, for the future, any such encroachments on his majesty's territories, and committing such violence on his subjects, as had been done in the past.

I added to my remonstrance, that I hoped they would be taken into consideration quickly; that he might be able to give me an answer next week, or as soon afterwards as he possibly could. This minister told me, he would use his best endeavours for that purpose; assured me it was the intention of his court to prevent any disputes arising, that might tend to alter the present correspondence between the two nations; and that I might depend upon such orders being sent to their governors accordingly.

Of the three men I mentioned to your lordship in my letter of last week, that had been brought prisoners from Canada to Rochelle, whom I sent for to come to Paris, two of them are arrived, and the third is gone to London. I will take such informations from them, as may be necessary for my own instruction, to support their receiving satisfaction for the injuries that have been done them."

At the same time that my lord Albemarle mentioned the above affair to M. de Rouille, he delivered to him a memorial containing his complaints, of which the following is a part.

"As to the fort which the french have undertaken to build on the river Niagara, and as to the six englishmen who have been made prisoners; lord Albemarle is ordered by his court to demand, that the most express orders be sent to M. de la Jonquiere, to desist from such unjust proceedings, and in particular, to cause the fort above-mentioned, to be immediately razed; and the french and others in their alliance, who may happen to be there, to retire forthwith: as likewise, to set the six englishmen at liberty, and to make them ample satisfaction for the wrongs and losses they have suffered; and lastly, that the persons who have committed these excesses, be punished in such a manner as may serve for an example to those who might venture on any like attempt."

It

It is necessary here to add a remark or two on this perplexed and intricate affair; concerning which, so much falshood has been propagated. It is very plain that, although several just demands were made by lord Albemarle to the french minister, yet none of them (except the releasing the three men at Rochelle) were complied with: even to this day the fort at Niagara has not been demolished. No satisfaction was made to those englishmen who were taken prisoners, for the losses they sustained; nor any restitution made for the effects that had been seized. And as to the positive orders which were to be sent to all their governors in North America, and to de la Jonquiere in particular, for them to desist from any the like attempts or encroachments for the future, every one knows the french never thought of complying with this demand, since they continued without interruption their encroachments; and were so far from desisting from the same, that they even carried them every day further and further, till at last it came to an open war between the two nations.

It is one of the first and best of political maxims, for every nation to resent the wrongs done them vigorously and without delay. But, to the misfortune of their country, the ministry in England did not follow that method to have its injuries redressed. 'Tis true, my lord Albemarle demanded every thing that it was reasonable to expect the french could grant. But there certainly is a wide difference between demanding, and having those demands granted. The only article complied with was, the releasing the three englishmen at Rochelle. Now it is natural here to enquire into the reason, why the british ministry did not insist upon having the other articles, mentioned in the lord Albemarle's memorial, complied with instantly, and a stop put to the many encroachments which the french were making in America. We know this should have been done: and we know it was not done. To enquire

into the secret springs and causes of this neglect, must be left to those who are more acquainted with the affairs of state: but thus much I may venture to say, that one of the principal ones was the dread and fear which the ministry in England had, of being drawn into a war with France; the reasons for this fear, I think, are very evident.

The marquis de la Jonquiere, governor of Canada, died in march, 1752, just as he was preparing to march a considerable body of troops to the Ohio, with design to continue their encroachments on that river. The marquis du Quesne, successor to Jonquiere, no sooner arrived at Quebec, in the middle of the year, than he hastened to continue what his predecessor had begun; and gave the command of the troops designed for the Ohio, to the sieur de St. Pierre, who began his march in the latter end of 1753, and wintered in a fort which he built on the Beef River. In the month of october, during his stay at this post, he received a letter from Mr. Dinwiddie, lieutenant governor of Virginia, dated the 31st, complaining of sundry late hostilities; and desiring to know, by what authority an armed force had marched from Canada, and invaded a territory indubitably the right of his britannic majesty. Major Washington was the bearer of this letter. He returned with the following answer from Monsr. Legardeur de St. Pierre, dated at the fort on Beef River, the 15th of december, 1753.

“ SIR,

As I have the honor to command here in chief, Mr. Washington delivered me the letter, which you directed to the commandant of the french troops. I should have been pleased if you had given him orders, or if he himself had been disposed, to visit Canada and our general; to whom, rather than to me, it properly appertains, to remonstrate the reality of the king my master's rights to lands situated along
the

the Ohio, and to dispute the pretensions of the king of Great-Britain in that respect.

I shall immediately forward your letter to Mons. le marquis du Quesne. His answer will be a law to me: and if he directs me to communicate it to you, I assure you, sir, I shall neglect nothing that may be necessary to convey it to you with expedition.

As to the requisition you make (that I retire with the troops under my command) I cannot believe myself under any obligation to submit to it: I am here in virtue of my general's orders; and I beg, sir, you would not doubt a moment of my fixed resolution to conform to them, with all the exactitude and steadiness that might be expected from a better officer.

I do not know that, in the course of this campaign, any thing has passed that can be esteemed an act of hostility, or contrary to the treaties subsisting between the two crowns; the continuation of which is as interesting and pleasing to us, as it can be to the english. If it had been agreeable to you, sir, in this respect, to have made a particular detail of the facts which occasion your complaint, I should have had the honor of answering you in the most explicit manner; and, I am persuaded you would have had reason to be satisfied.

I have taken particular care to receive Mr. Washington with all the distinction suitable to your dignity, and to his quality and great merit. I flatter myself that he will do me this justice, and join with me in testifying the profound respect with which

I am, Sir,

Your most humble

And most obedient servant,

LEGARDEUR DE ST. PIERRE."

On receipt of this resolute answer, Mr. Dinwiddie made instant complaint to the court of Great-Britain; and laboured what he could to rouse the Virginians

into a vigorous opposition. He wrote also to the neighbouring governors, importuning the aid of the other colonies, for repelling the invasion, and erecting a fort at the confluence of the Ohio and Monongahela. An immediate junction in such measures became absolutely requisite for the common security. But the colonies, inattentive to the inconveniencies of an endless frontier, contemned the power of Canada, and confided in the number of their inhabitants. They were so entirely ignorant of the situation and importance of the inland country; that when application was made to Virginia for succours, conformable to directions from the ministry in England, some of our provincial assemblies, particularly those of Pennsylvania and New York *, seemed even to question his majesty's right to the lands usurped by the french. Others, to avoid their share in the burden, framed the most trifling excuses. New York, however, voted 5000l. currency in aid of Virginia; which, considering her own situation, and approaching distresses, was no ungenerous contribution.

But the Virginians proceeded in their resolution of marching a body of troops to the protection of their frontiers: and passed an act in February, 1754, for the raising 10,000l. and 300 men. The command was given to col. Washington, a young gentleman of great bravery and distinguished merit.

He

* Extract of governor Morris's message to the assembly of Pennsylvania, 22 November, 1755.

You would not admit, that the french encroachments and fortifications on the Ohio were within our limits, or his majesty's dominions, then by seeking an excuse to avoid doing what was required of you.

Extract of the address of the general assembly of New York to lieutenant governor de Lancy, 23 April, 1754.

It appears, by other papers, your honor has been pleased to communicate to us, that the french have built a fort at a place called the French Creek, at a considerable distance from the river Ohio, which may, but does not by any evidence or information appear to us to be an invasion of any of his majesty's colonies.

He began his march at the head of his little army, about the 1st of may. On the 28th he had a skirmish with the enemy, of whom ten were slain, and about twenty were made prisoners. But col. Washington finding himself too weak, waited for further reinforcements; during which time he was alarmed with the news, that a great body of french and indians were marching against him. It seems the marquis du Quesne, governor general of Canada, had appointed the sieur de Contre-Cœur to command the french troops on the Ohio, who being acquainted with the skirmish which col. Washington had with a party of french, resolved to send the greatest part of his forces, under the sieur de Villiers, to dislodge col. Washington from his little camp, which he had formed, and which was called fort Necessity. In obedience to these instructions, Villiers accordingly marched at the head of near 1000 french and 200 indians against the english. On the 3^d of july, he came in sight of fort Necessity. The english troops not amounting to above 200 men, were a handful compared to the number of the enemy; but they fought bravely for upwards of three hours, nor did they give over before they had slain near 200 of the enemy; but col. Washington, observing their great superiority, who began to hem him in on all quarters, found himself under the absolute necessity of submitting to the disagreeable terms that were offered him.

In this action we had 30 killed and 50 wounded. The french, as I have said before, were assisted by a considerable number of indians, who had been long in the english alliance. And many of them were known to be of the six nations. On the surrender of our camp, they fell at once to pillaging the baggage and provisions; and shot several of the horses and cattle.

Against this conduct col. Washington remonstrated; but all his arguments made little impression upon them.

them. Thus the french remained masters of the field; the indians were rivetted in their defection; and the frontiers of the colony exposed, through the ill-timed parsimony of the provinces. The enemy on the other hand wisely improved the present advantage, and erected forts to secure to themselves the quiet possession of that fertile country. To shew the negligence of the province of Pensilvania, we need only take notice, that soon after Washington's defeat, a thousand of the back inhabitants presented a petition to the assembly, praying, that they might be furnished with arms and ammunition for their defence; but the petition was rejected with scorn. Our indian allies have often desired us to build forts, to which their wives and children might fly in time of danger; and sent down to the governor of Pensilvania, begging he would direct the building a stockade, or wooden fort, in which they offered to defend themselves and the english from the incursions of the enemy; but the assembly, to be consistent with themselves, and to show that they were religiously bent on the ruin of their country, refused to give any money to this purpose, and gave the indians for answer, that if they were afraid of the enemy, they might retire further down, and come within the settled parts of the province. Thus the noblest opportunity was lost that could have been offered, of keeping our indians steady, and for building a fort at a small expence, in a pass so commodiously situated between the mountains, that it would have effectually covered and defended two of our frontier counties, from the inroads of the french and their indians.

I shall here take notice of an instruction sent from his majesty to the several governors of North America; whereby the earl of Holderneffe signified his majesty's commands, that in case the subjects of any foreign prince should presume to make any encroachments in the limits of his majesty's dominions, or to erect forts on his majesty's lands, or to commit any
other

other act of hostility; and should upon a requisition made to them to desist from such proceedings, persist in them, they should draw forth the armed force of their respective provinces, and use their best endeavours to repel force by force.

It was in consequence of this message, that the governor of Pensilvania in particular, urged the assembly of that province, to raise the necessary sums for their own defence, with so much warmth, but which, as I have before said, they refused to do; although at that time the province was in the utmost danger.

At the beginning of a war, every transaction and affair, which at another time would be reckoned immaterial, is of great importance to be known. It is for this reason that I have, and shall continue to be, very particular in giving distinct accounts of all our american affairs; as this war, contrary to all others, has been more critical and important there, than any where else. I shall now mention the affairs of Nova Scotia, in which province we find the french committed repeated hostilities; and with their usual impudence seized all that part of Nova Scotia, beyond the bay of Fundi, from the river Chignecto, to that of St. John, making the first the limits of that province. Mr. Cornwallis was at that time governor of it; and M. de la Jonquiere commanded in chief in Canada, who openly and readily avowed the unjust proceedings of the french. But this affair will be much clearer laid open by the following memorial, which contains a recapitulation of the conduct of France in that province; stating many interesting particulars in a just and clear light. It was delivered to the marquis de Puyfieux at Paris, by the earl of Albemarle, the 7th of june, 1750.

“ The underwritten ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, from his majesty, the king of Great-Britain, has orders from the king his master, dated Hanover, the 26th of last month, to represent to the
court

court of France, how much he is surprized at hearing the violent proceedings of the french in America, under the authority and direction of M. de la Jonquiere, who has readily avowed them.

M. Cornwallis, governor of Nova Scotia, informs the duke of Bedford, by a letter dated the first of may this year, that the french have taken possession of all that part of Nova Scotia, beyond the bay of Fundi, from the river Chignecto to that of St. John, making the first the limits of that province.

They have reduced Beaubassin to ashes, and carried to the other side of the river the inhabitants with their effects; compelled them to take up arms, and formed them into companies; so that the sieur Lacorne, a french officer has at that place under his command, a body of 2500 men, made up of regular troops, canadians and indians.

The sieur de Lacorne and father Loutre, a french missionary, have made use of repeated and innumerable promises and menaces, in order to persuade all the inhabitants of the province to leave the country.

The inhabitants declare openly their abhorrence of these proceedings; but the sieurs de Lacorne and Loutre, threaten them with a general massacre from the indians, if they remain in the province. They support and protect openly the indians, our declared enemies; who enlist under the banners of France. They detain the king's subjects, his officers and soldiers, prisoners. They excite the king's french subjects to a rebellion; and those who remain loyal, they threaten with destruction. They send their indian slaves all over the country, where they are guilty of all sorts of outrages.

They have set fire to the towns acknowledged by themselves, to appertain to his majesty.

Governor Cornwallis sent the sieur Lawrence, major of foot, with a detachment to Chignecto; where he arrived the 20th of last april. They saw the french

french set fire to the town of Chignecto, french colours planted on the ditches; and the sieur de la Corne at the head of his detachment, braving major Lawrence; and declaring, that he would defend to the last, that ground as belonging to France.

The sieur de la Corne having sent to desire a conference with the sieur Lawrence, the latter, accompanied by two captains of foot, went to meet him, and demanded by whose orders he had thus come into his majesty's territories, and committed such acts of violence. The sieur de la Corne answered; it was by those of M. de la Jonquiere, who had also commanded him to take possession of Chippodi, John's River, Man-rem, Cooke, Pitcordiack, and of all that country, as far as the river, which was on the the right hand of major St. Lawrence, as belonging to his most christian majesty; or at least, that he was to keep and defend it as such, till such time as the limits were settled by commissaries appointed for that purpose.

Though the sieur Lawrence had under his command a detachment of regular troops, very little inferior to that commanded by the sieur Lacorne, he forbore committing any hostilities, in obedience to the king's orders for that purpose.

The king cannot persuade himself that these acts of violence have been committed with the knowledge of the court of France, and he is so fully convinced of his most christian majesty's equity, and his desire to maintain a good understanding between the two crowns, that he assures himself the most christian king will readily show his disapprobation of such conduct.

Governor Cornwallis has never made, nor designed to make any settlements out of the limits of the peninsula, which the french before never pretended to belong to them: The king having had no intention, in forming a settlement in his province of Nova Scotia, to encroach on the rights of his most christian majesty,

jeſty, or to take forcible poſſeſſion of a country, of which the king had referred the right of propriety to the deciſion of the commiſſaries appointed for that purpoſe; before it was poſſible for them to have met in order to proceed to the ſettling of the limits.

The under written ambaffador has orders to demand, that the conduct of M. de la Jonquiere be diſavowed: that poſitive orders be ſent him immediately to withdraw his troops, and the indians under his authority from the places which belong to Great-Britain; that amends be made for the acts of violence which have been committed, and the damage which the king's ſubjects have ſuffered: and his majeſty is perſuaded that the court of France will make no difficulty, to give the underwritten ambaffador the duplicate of the orders, which will be ſent to the governor of Canada, that he may tranſmit them to his court. Done at Compeigne the 7th of july, 1750. Signed,

ALBEMARLE."

In answer to this memorial, the marquis de Puyſieulx wrote the following letter to the earl of Albemarle, dated Compeigne, july 23, 1750.

" SIR,

In the memorial, which your excellency has given me concerning the complaints of M. Cornwallis, governor of Arcadia, are contained many facts, ſo contrary to the equity of his majeſty, the inſtructions of M. de la Jonquiere, and that if they are found to be ſuch as they are repreſented, the king will take care juſtice ſhall be done to his britanniſh majeſty's ſubjects, and will give ſuch freſh orders, as will prevent the riſe of any diſpute of what kind ſoever between the two nations; his majeſty being thoroughly perſuaded his britanniſh majeſty will giye, on his ſide, orders to the ſame purpoſe.

Give

Give me leave, sir, to tell you I cannot be prevailed upon to believe, but that the facts are exposed with too much exaggeration, and from my knowledge of M. de la Jonquiere's prudence, and the instructions which he has, I am sorry M. Cornwallis has not applied for redress, before he had made complaints to his court. I sent your memorial, as soon as I received it to M. Rouille, and desired he would take the proper steps, to be informed in a speedy and precise manner, of what has passed at Canada, so as I may be enabled to give your excellency a more positive answer. I have the honour to be, &c.

Signed, PUYSEULX.

P. S. Might not M. Cornwallis have attempted to form settlements on the places that are in dispute, or even on the king's territories?"

Soon after the earl of Albemarle received this letter, the french ministry gave him a copy of a letter wrote from M. Rouille, to M. de la Jonquiere; in which he was directed to forbear committing hostilities on the subjects of England.

But Mr. Cornwallis had not force enough to drive them from their encroachments; and it was very plain that they would remain in them, in spite of all the remonstrances and memorials, that the english ambassador might make at Paris; for we find the french made no motions with design to quit the country they had seized; till they were drove out by the New England troops in 1755; of which more hereafter. But before I take my leave of the affairs of this province for the present, it is necessary to take notice of a memorial delivered at Paris to my lord Albemarle, (as a further answer to the complaints of England) the 15th of september this year, in which they deny most of the facts laid to their charge; and speaking of the limits of the province in the most evasive and quibbling manner.

To

To return: I left col. Washington, just defeated, returning home (after having been obliged to submit to the disagreeable terms imposed on him) and he arrived safe at Williamsburg, after a most tedious and hazardous march.

As yet the affairs of North America had gone on but very badly, and wore a dismal countenance. The french were every where advancing, and always with success; our frontiers were all open to the enemy, and nothing to defend them; in such a calamitous condition, something must be done, but what to determine on, was difficult to know: our colonies were, singly, so weak, that a junction was at that time absolutely necessary, and accordingly resolved on. By his majesty's orders, the 14th of june was appointed for a grand congress of commissaries from the several provinces to be held at Albany, as well to treat with the indians of the six nations, as to concert a scheme for a general union of the british colonies. Messengers had been dispatched to the indian chiefs to request their attendance; but they did not arrive till the latter end of the month; and the Mohawks, who lived but 40 miles distant, came in last. This occasioned various speculations; some imputed it to fear, lest the french in their absence, should fall upon their countries. But the most probable reason of it was: that the indians imagined, that by exciting our jealousy of their wavering disposition, at so critical a juncture, the more liberal would be the presents made them by the several governments. But they arrived at last, though in smaller numbers than was expected, or had been usual on those occasions; though they had been very well pleased with the presents made them, which were much more considerable than had been ever known: in their speech to Mr. de Lancey, the lieutenant governor of New York, they spoke with great vehemence, and very severely upon our negligent and indolent behaviour; extolling the better conduct of the french in fortifying

ing and maintaining their garrisons. And recriminated upon us the desertion of our fort at Saraghtoga the last war; lamented the defenceless condition, of our frontier city of Albany; and earnestly exhorted us for the future to defend ourselves with more spirit. The indians being dismissed, the conferences were continued till the 11th of july: the commissioners being, both for abilities and fortune, some of the most considerable men in North America: in the conclusion of their debates, a plan was concerted for a general union of the british colonies, and creating a common fund to defray all military expences; and a representation of their present state drawn up; which was agreed to be laid before the king's ministers. But this scheme was never put in execution.

During the sitting of the congress at Albany, Mr. Shirley, governor of Massachuset's Bay; a gentleman, of whom I shall have much to say in the sequel; proposed to the assembly of that province the building a strong fort near the head of the river Kenebeck, in order to protect the province from the incursions of the french, and the indians; which the assembly agreed to; and provided pay and subsistence for 800 men, to be raised on that account. Accordingly in the summer, Mr. Shirley proceeded to the eastern parts of the province, with the troops raised for that purpose; and with the consent of the indians, built fort Western and fort Halifax upon the river Kenebeck, the former about 37 miles from the mouth of it; and the other, about 54. Of this service, Mr. Shirley transmitted an account to England, and at the same time represented the imminent danger, which he apprehended the neighbouring province of Nova-Scotia was exposed to from the fortifications, and other encroachments of the french upon the istmus, and the peninsula there, and St. John's river in the bay of Fundi; as also, from the sudden attacks, which might be formed against it from St. John's island, Louilburg and Quebec. In

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answer

answer to which Mr. Shirley received a letter from Sir Thomas Robinson, one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state, containing his majesty's approbation of the service upon the river Kennebeck, with orders to communicate it to the assembly. And soon after Mr. Shirley received his majesty's commands, to concert measures, with Mr. Lawrence, lieutenant governor, and commander in chief of the province of Nova Scotia, for attacking the french forts in that province. Accordingly, by his majesty's commands, Mr. Shirley raised 2000 new england men, and received 2000 stands of small arms from England; with which force he marched, in conjunction with Mr. Lawrence (with the troops under his command which were in Nova Scotia) attacked, and reduced the french forts at Beaufejour, and at Gaspereau, near Bay Verte, making the garrisons prisoners: and in a short time after, upon two of his majesty's ships of war appearing before the french fort, situated on the river of St. John's, about three miles above the mouth of it, the garrison there burst their cannon, demolished their works as much as they could, evacuated the fort, and retired up the river, to their other settlements upon it. By reason of the time that was necessary to prepare for this expedition, the service was not executed till the 19th of june, 1755.

The remainder of the year 1754 was spent principally in repeated representations to the ministry in England, laying before them the bad state of the colonies; together with several schemes for their general union; assuring them, that if speedy and powerful assistance was not administered, the colonies in America would inevitably fall a prey to the ambitious designs of the court of France.

In this manner ended the year 1754. As yet both courts continued to give the most solemn assurances of maintaining the peace between the two nations inviolably; when at the same time an open and bloody war was carrying on between them in America. It

was

was very palpable, that the pretended peace (which in fact had not a being) would not last long, but that the war would soon spread into Europe. In America there happened no affair of great consequence; but, as in the beginning of a war every thing is of some consequence, because it is at the breaking out of one, I have been obliged to pursue the thread of affairs in America step by step, and to give the most particular accounts of, even some matters which at first sight the reader will imagine but of little moment, which he will find by the sequel, were of importance enough to have a place in history, as they tend very much to the clearer understanding of what follows. This was the first war, in which Great Britain may be said to have engaged purely for the defence of her american colonies; they certainly well deserve all the expence, pains, and care that their mother country can take of them. Since she will, in the end, be repaid with an hundred fold for whatever she can expend in their defence. Although Great Britain finds, that its very being as a nation, depends upon her colonies, still we see (or at least we have good reason to think so) that the french know the value of them much better than us. They make (comparatively speaking) more of Canada, which is a mere barren rock, in comparison with our colonies, than we do of all our noble settlements in North America. Nor can we here consider their situation at the close of the year 1754, without being astonished at the negligent remissness of the english ministry, to suffer these valuable territories, which make so considerable a part of his majesty's dominions, to remain in so open and defenceless a condition. They may say in justification of themselves, that the colonies have strength enough to defend themselves: but then they ought to remember, that, it is not in their power to make use of the strength they have, since every one knows, that while they all continue in seperate provinces, without any connection with one another,

they may easily fall a prey to the combined and more formidable strength of the french and their indians. Is it not surprising, that, while the french were advancing on all sides, after they had defeated the troops under Washington ; and seized all that valuable tract of country, situated on the Ohio and its branches ; and were continually receiving reinforcements from old France ; after all this, it is not, I say, a mark of the utmost negligence, treachery or stupidity in the e——h m——y, never yet to send any troops or forces to America, to defend his majesty's rights against the unjust usurpations and invasions of the french ?

We find that the french began the new year in America, with their usual diligence and activity ; and having the advantage of great reinforcements from old France early in the year * ; bid very fair for

* Extract of a letter, dated Philadelphia, jan. 2, 1755.

“ SIR,

Since my last, we have five days ago received certain intelligence, that a body of nigh 6000 men, of the best troops of France, selected and sent over upon this particular service, are just arrived at the lower fort on the Ohio, and are employed, even in this rigorous season, in fortifying that country. In september last, the french men of war that brought them over, were seen not far from the entrance into the river St. Lawrence, into which, we are now certain they all went, and landed at Quebec. After a short stay in that city, they were seen by our indian traders passing the lakes Oswego and Erie, in a prodigious number of battoes, of which the several governors received notice, though we did not then conjecture that it was an armament from old France ; till now that we are too certain of it.

Notwithstanding this, our assembly continues as obstinate as ever ; nor have we as yet any probability of their giving any money for our defence, although we hear they are to adjourn in two days. The governor has beseeched them to consider the defenceless state of the province, and establish a regular militia, but in vain. He also observes, that the activity of the french at this rigorous season cannot but convince the world, that they have formed some grand design with regard to this continent, and that they have made their
first

for pushing our colonies much further; especially as they had not a single regiment from Europe to defend them; and their enemies were continually receiving supplies; which together with their advantageous situation for a war, having little or no frontier to defend, made them much more than a match for the english colonies, who have such an immense one, without any thing to defend it with. Thus we find the french advanced with such hasty strides, that at the beginning of this year, their camp and forts upon the Ohio, and the parts adjacent, were not more than 225 miles, horizontal distance, from the city of Philadelphia, and only about two days march from some of our back settlements.

At last we find that a general was appointed to command in America; his majesty constituted general Braddock generalissimo of all the troops which were in, or should be sent to America; and accordingly this general arrived in Virginia in february; and as soon, as he possibly could, sent expresses to the several governors to meet him, in order to have a consultation on the business of the approaching campaign. This convention, by appointment of the general, was held at Alexandria in Virginia. After much debating it was agreed, that for the preservation of Oswego, and reduction of Niagara, Shirley's and Pepperel's regiments should proceed to lake Ontario; on which lake, one or more armed vessels of about 60 ton each should be built, to command it. This part of the service was committed to Mr. Shirley's care; while general Braddock attacked

first attack upon Pensilvania, as being in the center, and being not only the most plentiful, but the most defenceless and unwieldy of all his majesty's colonies. Having once got footing here, they will issue forth upon the other colonies on either side; and as they have such a large body already in the field, we apprehend it is their design, early in the spring, to fortify the passes in the mountains; and if they accomplish this, and can find provisions, they will be able to stand against three times their numbers."

fort du Quesne; and the provincial troops, commanded by general Johnson, marched to invest Crown Point.

Pursuant to these resolutions, general Braddock, at the head of 2200 men, began his march against fort du Quesne, and arrived at fort Cumberland in his way thither, the 10th of may; from thence to fort du Quesne is not less than 140 miles: Mr. Braddock began his march from the former on the 10th of june; leaving the garrison under the command of col. Innes. From the time the general marched from fort Cumberland, we may begin to date the miscarriage of the expedition, which proceeded from a thousand different reasons, which it is now my business to show.

Innumerable were the difficulties he had to surmount, in a country rugged, pathless, and unknown, a-cross the allegheney mountains, through unfrequented woods, and dangerous defiles; but these dangers were doubly encreased, by the disappointments which the general met with in almost every thing he had to do with the provinces. We find he complains very much of this in his letters to the ministry in England, especially in one, wherein he particularizes all that had been promised him; amongst which was the quarter-master-general, who assured him that he might depend on 2500 horses, and 200 waggons from Virginia and Maryland; of which he only received 20 waggons and 200 horses. In like manner did all his expectations come to little, merely through the disaffection and negligence of all the persons with whom he had any dealings. We may conceive the difficulties which Mr. Braddock met with in this terrible march, when we consider that he was obliged (to use his own expressions) to be continually employed in making a road, as he proceeded with infinite labour a-cross mountains and rocks of an excessive height, which are steep, and divided by torrents and rivers.

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In spite of all these difficulties, general Braddock was obliged to set forward, on his march against fort du Quesne, which he did, as I have said, on the 10th of june, with his little army in two divisions : at the head of the first, consisting of 1400 men, was the general himself, with the greatest part of the ammunition and artillery : the second, with the provisions, stores, and heavy baggage, was led by col. Dunbar, (a man of great prudence and military judgment) with about 800 men, with orders to follow the general as fast as the service would admit. The general having by this means lessened his line of march, proceeded with great expedition, in hopes of being able to attack the enemy before they were joined by a detachment of 500 regular troops ; insomuch that he left the rear near forty miles behind. On the 8th of july he encamped within 10 miles of fort du Quesne ; and on the 9th, in his march through the woods towards that fort, was attacked by a body of french and indians ; the former in the front, and the latter on each side, in ambuscade, which began with a quick and heavy fire upon the vanguard, under lieut. col. Gage, from the indians. Immediately the main body, in good order and high spirits, advanced to sustain them. Orders were then given to halt and form into battalia. At this juncture, the van falling back upon them in great confusion, a general panic seized the whole body of the soldiery, and all attempts to rally them proved utterly ineffectual ; but being rallied by their officers, with much difficulty they gave one fire ; and even after they had fell back on the main body, they were with unspeakable difficulty once more rallied by their officers, and stood one fire from the enemy, but then without returning it, both regiments fled with the utmost terror and precipitation, deserting their officers ; all of whom, and the general, exerted their utmost activity to relieve the troops from their universal surprise and disorder : but they were equally deaf to intreaties and commands. During this scene

of confusion, they expended their ammunition in the wildest, and most unmeaning fire. Some discharging their pieces on our parties, who were advanced from the main body for the recovery of the cannon. After three hours spent in this melancholy situation, enduring a terrible slaughter from (it may be said) an invisible foe, orders were given to sound a retreat, that the men might be brought to cover the waggons: these they surrounded but a short space of time; for the enemy's fire being again warmly renewed from the front and left flank, the whole army took to immediate flight; leaving behind them all the artillery, provisions, ammunition, baggage, military chest, together with the general's cabinet, containing his instructions, and other papers of consequence*. So great was the consternation of the soldiers, that it was impossible to stop their career, flying with the utmost precipitation three miles from the field of action; where only one hundred men began to make a more orderly retreat.

What the real strength of the enemy was, is to this day uncertain; but it has been very confidently reported, that they had upwards of 2000 regular forces, including the canadian militia, which in that country is equal in usefulness to the regular troops from old France; besides considerable numbers of indians, who were planted in ambuscade, and from whom our men suffered by far the most. On our side the loss was very great; but more particularly so, in the death of several officers of great merit, who sacrificed their lives for the service of their country, with singular and heroic bravery. The general, after having five horses shot under him, received a wound in his lungs through his right arm, of which he died in four days. His secretary, eldest son of major general Shirley, a

* The french sometime after published a large memorial, containing the conduct of the british ministry; and as vouchers to the facts advanced in the memorial, they published all the papers which they found in Mr. Braddock's cabinet.

gentleman of a very good character, was killed on the spot, by a shot through his head. Sir Peter Halket, colonel of the 44th regiment, was killed, with several other officers of distinction. Mr. Orme, capt. Morris, both aid-de-camps, were wounded; as was lieut. col. Gage and Burton; besides many other officers both killed and wounded, who, if it had pleased God to have spared their lives, would in all probability hereafter have been useful ornaments to their country.

To what causes this unhappy defeat is to be ascribed, has been matter of much inquiry, and animated many debates. Some of the officers charged the defeat to the cowardice of the men; but in a representation they made to Mr. Shirley, by order of the crown, they in some measure apologize for their behaviour; alledging, that they were harrassed by duties unequal to their numbers, and dispirited through want of provisions; that time was not allowed them to dress their food: that their water (the only liquor they had) was both scarce and of a bad quality: in fine, that the provincials had disheartened them, by repeated suggestions of their fears of a defeat, should they be attacked by indians; in which case the european method of fighting would be entirely unavailing. These were some of the many mutual complaints on both sides; but there were some partial and ill-desigining persons, who, contrary to the general knowledge and opinion of all that were in the least acquainted with the general's conduct; laid the ill success of the day to his door; but when we come to consider well the difficulties he met with, together with the positiveness of his orders, it will clearly appear, that very little of Mr. Braddock's conduct was through his own choice, but actual necessity. Many inconsiderate people have attacked the general's military capacity, alledging that the loss of the battle was owing to his rashness; but I have been assured by several creditable gentlemen, who were eye-witnesses

nesses of Mr. Braddock's actions that day, that he did most incomparably well in every order which he gave, and in all his management of the march over the mountains to the moment he was killed, no man could possibly shew greater military skill, or even more knowledge of the nature of the service on which he was sent : and as to the clamours that were raised against him in England, it was no more than would always attend a general who commanded in North America, that was attended with ill success, by reason of the predominancy of the spirit of party, which breathes throughout all the english colonies, more, if possible, than in their mother country.

On the death of this brave though unfortunate general, the command of the troops devolved on col. Dunbar, who commanded the rear party, several miles short of the place of action. When the routed troops joined Dunbar's men, the terror diffused itself through the whole army. In this scene of dreadful confusion, the commander nor any of his officers were listened to or regarded ; insomuch, that the men, fearful of an unpursuing enemy, had wasted all their ammunition, and so much of their provision, for accelerating their flight, that Mr. Dunbar was obliged to send for 30 horse loads of the latter, before he reached fort Cumberland : where he arrived in a few days, with the shattered remains of the english troops.

In this melancholy manner ended so important an expedition. This defeat had the worst consequences imaginable ; as it gave so much spirit and alacrity to our enemies afterwards ; and went a great way in keeping the indians firm to their new allies : so on the contrary, we suffered by the battle, as much as the enemy gained ; from that time, the indians in our interest, despised us as not able even to protect ourselves, and much less them ; and that in a country where we were so much more numerous than the french,

french. But the indians were not the only people terrified by Mr. Braddock's defeat; an universal panic seized on all our colonies, out of which they did not soon recover, and which consequently must have been of the greatest disservice to our cause. Many persons in England have taken great pains to find out by whose ill conduct this battle was lost. But with a very little reflection it will appear plain, that no single person was the reason of it; but a chain of a thousand different accidents, and blunders in the ministers who planned the expedition, and the disaffection of the provincials to the service. The capital mistake of all, was the landing the troops at first in Virginia, whereas they ought certainly to have been landed in Pensilvania; for Mr. Braddock could get neither provisions nor carriages in Virginia, both of which he might have had in great plenty in Pensilvania; and what was as material, the shortness of the rout to fort du Quesne, by way of Pensilvania, which would have shortened their march at least six weeks, and might have been performed with half the fatigue and expence of that, by way of Virginia. But in every scheme which was planned by the then ministry in England, we find so much short-sightedness and such manifest weakness, that we cannot at all wonder at the ill success which attended their administration.

Let me ask any impartial person, in what manner he thinks the affairs of England could be carried on, when one minister had the supreme direction of the cabinet, and when that minister's only pretensions for the high employments he possessed, was a parliamentary interest; without being acquainted with the true interests of the nation he governed, or possessing abilities to promote them.

C H A P. II.

Affairs in Europe. Preparations for war. King's message to the parliament. Addresses. Commons grant the king one million on account. King's speech. Parliament prorogued. King goes to Hanover. Mirepoix, the french ambassador, sets out for France. King lands in England. Parliament meets. King's speech. Addresses. Treaties with Hesse Cassel and Russia. Changes in the ministry. Reflections.

AT the beginning of the year 1754, the state of affairs in Europe was much different from what it was in America ; where war in reality was as much carried on as ever it was afterwards ; but in Europe peace was avowed between the two nations ; and while both kingdoms thought of preparing for that war, which most able men saw was nigh, still the ministers of each protested to each other, that war was the furthest from their thoughts ; which assurances, on the part of England, I believe were extremely true ; for though the proceedings of the french, even at that time, ought to have roused the british ministry to resent it in the most enforfive manner ; yet they knew very well, that to keep themselves in the power they enjoyed, it was necessary that the nation should not be led into a war with France ; for then (as always was the case) the ministry in England must consequently fall in pieces.

In pursuance of such a plan, we find them practising the lowest arts, and putting up with the greatest injuries, sooner than resent in a just and rigorous manner, the wrongs their country had received. The french took notice of this despicable behaviour, and resolved to turn it to their good : insomuch, that, no sooner did they find who they had to deal with, but they continued their encroachments in America with
double

double diligence. At last, however, these peaceable ministers were obliged, whether they would or no, to see the preparations that were making in all the ports of France, which they could not possibly do, without being alarmed; they as usual, applied to the french ambassador at London; but his answers to their applications being too frivolous and quibbling, to be depended upon; they were obliged for safety sake to arm, in their own defence. This measure, though too late, was certainly right, and might have been more effectual, had it been made use of earlier.

At this time, the duke de Mirepoix was employing all his abilities, to prevent the just resentment of Great Britain against his nation, for the hostilities committed by the french in North America; with the most religious assurances that his court was sincerely inclined to adjust finally and expeditiously all disputes subsisting between the two crowns in the new world*.

By some trifling preparations which they made at Calais, Dunkirk, &c. they endeavoured to persuade us, that they intended an invasion of England; but I think nothing in the world can be plainer, than that the french at that time had as much thoughts of invading the moon, as ever they had of invading England. The nation was greatly alarmed; and twenty fishing boats on the coast with a camp in a maritime province of France, we found sufficient to affrighten us into an immense expence to guard against that danger which never was to come.

On the 25th of march, his majesty sent a message to the house of commons, in which he observes, That the present situation of affairs

* Vide the memorial which the french ambassador delivered to the british ministry, the 5th of january, and the answer to it. This and many other curious pieces which I have quoted, are to be seen in the memorial published by the court of France, under the title of "The conduct of the english ministry."

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having made it necessary for him to augment his forces by sea and land; and to take such other measures, as might best tend to preserve the general peace of Europe, and to secure the just rights and possessions of his crown in America; as well as to repel any attempts whatsoever that may be made to support or countenance any designs which may be formed against his majesty and his kingdoms; his majesty did not doubt of the concurrence and support of that house, in making such augmentations, &c. as the honour of his crown, the true interest of his people, and the security of his dominions might require, in the present critical conjuncture of affairs.

In answer to this message, the lords and commons both presented most loyal, dutiful and affectionate addresses to his majesty.

But what was of more consequence, was the following resolution, which passed the house of commons on the 26th, in consequence of the above message and addresses: "That the sum of one million be granted to his majesty upon account, towards augmenting the forces by sea and land; and taking such measures for the security of his majesty's dominions, as may be necessary in the present conjuncture."

No other material business was transacted this session. On the 25th of april his majesty came to the house, and having given his consent to such bills as were ready; he made a gracious speech to both houses; after which, the lord chancellor, by his majesty's command, prorogued the parliament to the 27th of may.

In this manner ended this session of parliament; in my account of it I have been as brief as possible; and indeed I should have omitted saying any thing of it, but I could not with propriety have made such omission, as it had a manifest connection with the war. For the future I design to give no further account of the affairs of the parliament of England, than has
any

any material connection with the military part of this history. In the session, of which I have just spoke, we find much unanimity and steadiness in following his majesty's will; and the grant of one million on account, shows that the commons had a very good opinion of his majesty's designs and measures (at this time) in repelling the encroachments that were making in his dominions. It was very remarkable in this session, to see the loyalty and affection of those members in the house, from whom no such extraordinary fidelity was expected; more particularly at this time.

His majesty having formed a design of visiting his german dominions this year, set out from St. James's on the 28th of april, about five o'clock in the morning: he went over Westminster bridge in a post chaise, through St. George's fields, over London bridge, and proceeded for Harwich, where he embarked; and in a little time landed safe at Helvoetsluys in Holland, in his way to Hanover. Before his majesty's departure, he appointed several noblemen and others lords justices for the administration of the government, during his majesty's absence; at the head of whom was his royal highness the duke.

The only act of importance they did, was the ordering the duke de Mirepoix, the french ambassador, to depart the kingdom in 24 hours: he received these orders on the 22d of july, and set out for France on the 24th, at four o'clock in the morning, for fear of being insulted by the mob. Matters between the two nations were come to such a crisis, that it would have been a jest for the ambassador to have stayed any longer.

On the 16th of september his majesty landed at Margate from Holland, and the same day arrived safe at Kensington; being convoyed in his passage by my lord Anson, with the following ships:

Ships

Ships.	Guns.	Men.
Windfor	60	400
Falmouth	50	350
Romney	44	280
Greyhound	24	160
Centaur	24	160
Wasp	10	70
Wolf	10	70

I have before said that the parliament was prorogued to may 27 ; after several adjournments, it met the 12th of november. In his majesty's speech he mentioned two treaties which he had concluded with the empress of Russia and the landgrave of Hesse Cassel, which soon after occasioned a warm debate in the house of lords ; for the duke of Marlborough stood up and moved for an address of thanks ; in which motion there were several expressions which seemed to imply an approbation of those treaties : this was, by several, objected to ; but the motion was seconded by the earl of Marchmont : many amendments were proposed, and it occasioned a long debate, in which the duke of Marlborough, the earl of Marchmont, the duke of Bedford, the duke of Newcastle, the lord chancellor, and the earl of Granville, spoke for the motion ; and the earl Temple, the earl of Pomfret, and the lord Talbot against it : also, the earl of Hallifax spoke particularly against the treaties ; but upon the question's being put, the motion was agreed to without a division.

In the address of the commons were these expressions, " And we think ourselves bound in justice and gratitude to assist your majesty against insults and attacks that may be made against any of your majesty's dominions, though not belonging to the crown of Great Britain," which occasioned a very long debate ; but it was agreed to at last, though not without being thought by many, a little extraordinary. The assurances

assurances of assistance which were made his majesty, the reader will find hereafter were fully made good.

I am now come to give the reader an account of a transaction which occasioned much discourse; I mean the treaties with Hesse Cassel and Russia; a measure as much praised by some, as it was condemned by others. The following is an extract from that with Hesse Cassel, signed at Hanover june 18.

I. The prince of Hesse engages to hold in readiness 8000 men, of which 1400 are to be horse, during four years from the signing this treaty, for the service of his britannic majesty, to march immediately after being required, if for the defence of the low countries; and within two months, if for the defence of England or Hanover. To be commanded by hessian officers, and to swear fidelity to the king of Great Britain, upon their being first mustered by an english commissary.

II. Each battalion of foot to have two field pieces.

III. His majesty engages to pay for every trooper or dragoon 80 crowns banco, and for every foot soldier 30 crowns banco.

IV. The king engages to pay, during this treaty, an annual subsidy of 150,000 crowns banco, the crown reckoned at four shillings and ninepence three farthings, english money, from the time of signing the treaty, till the troops shall be required to march, and 300,000 crowns from their being required to march, till they enter into the pay of his majesty; and from their entering into such pay, the landgrave to enjoy an annual subsidy of 150,000 crowns. When the troops shall be again sent back, the subsidy shall be again raised to 300,000, which shall be annually paid from the time of their entering the landgrave's territories to the expiration of the treaty.

V. If these troops are required to serve in Germany, they shall be put on the same foot with his majesty's forces; and if in England or Ireland, on the same foot with his british forces.

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VI. If

VI. If any of these troops shall be cut off, or the artillery lost or destroyed, his majesty shall defray all expences of recruiting and remounting them, and make good the loss of the guns.

VII. The king shall keep these troops in his service during all the time of the treaty, and employ them where he pleases, provided it be not on board the fleet, or beyond the seas.

VIII. The king shall send back these troops if the landgrave should be attacked, paying them a month's pay, and furnishing them with transport vessels at his own expence, affording him the succour of such other troops as the case shall require, to be continued till entire security is obtained. The landgrave of Hesse also engages, that if his majesty shall be attacked, he will yield him all the succour in his power, and continue it till an advantageous peace shall be concluded.

IX. To claim the succours stipulated by this treaty, it shall suffice, that either of the parties are attacked by force of arms, without having used open force against him who attacks him.

X. This body of 8000 shall be augmented to 12000, if his majesty shall require it, on the same conditions; the additional body of 4000 men to be ready six months after demanded, and the subsidy for them to commence from the time of the demand.

XI. This treaty shall subsist for four years.

XII. The ratifications to be exchanged six months after the signature.

Such was the treaty with Hesse Cassel, and, the better to make my remarks upon it, I shall give the reader an abstract of that with Russia, signed at Petersburgh 30 september, N. S. when by comparing them together we shall be the better able to judge of the wisdom of the english ministry in concluding these two treaties.

Treaty

Treaty with Russia.

I. Recites, that the empress has, for the mutual defence of herself and his majesty, at all events marched to the frontiers of Livonia, adjoining to Lithuania, 55000 men, of which 40000 are infantry of her regular troops, and 15000 cavalry; and stipulates, that they shall continue there as long as the present convention shall subsist.

II. The empress engages to hold in readiness on the coasts of that province, during the same time, 40 or 50 gallies with their crews, in condition to act on the first notice.

III. These troops and gallies shall not act, except his britannic majesty or his allies are attacked, and then the commanding officer, as soon as he shall receive his majesty's requisitions, shall make a diversion with 30,000 of the infantry, and all the 15,000 cavalry, and at the same time shall embark the other 10,000 infantry on board the gallies, in order to make a descent, according to the exigency of the case.

IV. If his majesty's german dominions shall be attacked, the empress will regard it as a case of the alliance of 1742.

V. His majesty engages to pay 500,000 l. sterling per annum, in consideration of this service, from the time the russian troops shall, in consequence of his requisition, pass the frontiers of their country. The payment to be always four months in advance, the first to be on the day the troops pass the frontiers.

VI. The empress takes upon herself the subsistence and payment of these troops both by sea and land.

VII. The empress engages not to recall these troops, even though she herself should be attacked by any other power; and his majesty promises, that in such case, he will immediately furnish the succour stipulated in the treaty of 1742.

VIII. If, contrary to all expectation, a war should break out, his majesty shall send into the Baltick a Squadron of force suitable to the circumstances, to act in concert with the russian army, as long as they shall be within reach of each other.

IX. A british commissary and admiral shall always assist in councils of war, with the russian commander of the auxiliary troops.

X. The russians shall be entitled to all plunder.

XI. The king engages to procure a passage for these troops through Poland, if necessary.

XII. This convention to subsist four years.

XIII. If peace be made, or the object of the diversion ceases within four years, the russian troops then to return and enjoy the succour agreed on three months. If no peace, the parties to agree on the prolongation of the convention.

XIV. The convention to be ratified within two months.

A separate and secret article.

His majesty engages to pay 100,000 l. per ann. always one year in advance, from the ratification of this treaty to the march of the troops beyond the frontier, when the payment of 500,000 l. per ann. is to commence in its stead.

Without considering the necessity, if there was any, of these treaties, and the goodness of them, we should observe, that by the fifth article of the treaty with Hesse, it is agreed, that every trooper shall first be purchased at about 20 l. sterling, and every foot soldier at about 7 l. which in all makes about 112,000 l. levy money; besides this, the landgrave is to have about 37,000 l. annually before the troops march; and as soon as they march, he is to receive 74,000 l. annually, till they enter into pay, according to that of Hanover or England; at which time the subsidy returns to about 37,000 l. annually; which again, when the troops are sent back,

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is to return to 74,000 l. a year, during the whole duration of the treaty.

By the compact with Russia, the empress is to assist England with 55,000 troops, and to transport and maintain them for the annual subsidy of 500,000 l. without any further consideration for death of men and horses, or loss of military stores, and no return of them is to take place during the duration of the treaty, even though the empress herself should be attacked. The reader need not be told how infinitely more advantageous the treaty with Russia was, than that with Hesse Cassel, for it explains itself: who would have imagined, that we should ever have preferred the assistance of 8000 Hessians, before a supply of Russians, when the former was ten times as expensive as the latter; but still this amazing folly (if I may be allowed the expression) afterwards appeared in the British councils, as we shall see hereafter.

If we consider the treaty with Russia, it will appear very plain that it was intended against the king of Prussia; for it is agreed by the second article, that these troops are to be held in readiness on the frontiers of Livonia, and the galleys cruising on that coast: and that, on his majesty's requisition, the commanding officer shall make a diversion with 30,000 infantry, and 15,000 cavalry, which speaks in so many words that they were designed against his Prussian majesty. It seems that the British court, was at this time very jealous of that monarch's intentions; they were fearful he intended to attack Hanover, and to guard against this danger (whether or not it was a real one, I am not able to say) they thought it necessary to conclude the treaty abovementioned with Russia. Against what other power could this treaty be designed? It was impossible that the Russians were to attack France, or defend us against the French, for galleys are quite unfit for the ocean; besides which, the article of their making a descent with 10,000
D 3 men,

men sufficiently speaks that they were intended to further the operation of the land army. In short, from every article of this treaty, it appears to be manifestly intended to defend the electorate of Hanover against the supposed ill intentions of his prussian majesty. But the affairs of Europe took such a course afterwards, as made this treaty (for that purpose at least) useless. But let the merit of them be ever so much extolled, they will appear to me to be but a very short-sighted remedy for the mischief they were intended to prevent. And I freely own the management in making them, is too intricate for me to pretend to unravel.

In the middle of november, there happened several changes in the ministry. Sir Thomas Robinson resigned the seals, and was made keeper of the rolls, in the room of lord Barrington, who was made secretary at war; Mr. Fox being removed from the war office and made secretary of state. And soon after appeared a new commission for the treasury, consisting of the following lords; the duke of Newcastle, first lord commissioner, the earl of Darlington, sir George Lyttleton, Thomas Hay, and Robert Newgent esqrs. at the same time, sir George Lyttleton was made chancellor of the exchequer, in the room of Mr. Legge. But this new set of ministers did not hold together long, for we find, that on the 16th of december, the earl of Darlington, and Mr. Hay, removed from the treasury, and were appointed paymasters general in the room of Mr. Pitt; and earl Gower sworn of the privy-council, and keeper of the privy seal; and the duke of Marlborough made master general of the ordnance: the same day, lord Anson, sir William Rowley, William Ponsonby, Thomas Villiers, Edward Boscawen, Richard Edgcumbe, esqrs. and lord Bateman were constituted lords of the admiralty.

Such were the men, who were at this time set at the head of affairs; but only a few of them were concerned

concerned or consulted in the administration of the most material affairs of the state.

From the face our affairs wore at the beginning of this war, we shall not have great reason to exult in our success. The reader has seen the beginning of a war between the two nations; and if we consider what the french made the aim and end of all their proceedings, namely, that tract of land in America, on the river Ohio (of which I have spoke so particularly in the former chapter) or as the french were pleased to term it, for a "few barren acres," we shall certainly conclude, that they in a manner got their desires accomplished. Indeed I have shown how loyal and unanimous the parliament of Great Britain was in their resolutions to support and defend his majesty's right to the utmost; but I believe the reader will join with me in being of opinion, that all the necessary measures to hinder a rupture with France from taking place, were not exerted. But this we shall be able to judge of clearly by and by, when we come to be further acquainted with the state of the quarrel, when it was more advanced, from its infancy.

C H A P. III.

Naval affairs in Europe, during the year 1755. Great diligence used by both nations to equip several squadrons. Macnamara sails from Brest ; and Boscawen from Portsmouth. Alcide and Lys taken. Holbourn sails from Spithead. Du Guay arrives at Cadiz. Hawke sails to intercept him. Returns without doing it. Byng sails from Spithead. Court martial on lord Harry Powlett. Boscawen arrives at Spithead. Reflections.

THE naval affairs of the two nations were not neglected. And indeed the english were more forward by sea than by land, that is naturally their element ; and, if that nation would more confine its military views by land, and exert them more by sea, they would soon convince their neighbours how impolitic it would be to break with them. But we find that both nations at this period were extremely diligent in preparing their maritime forces for any exigency of affairs that might happen. So early as january 1754, in England, impress warrants were issued by the lords of the admiralty ; and in two days time upwards of 2000 seamen were taken on the river Thames ; to man (as it was then given out) a squadron for the East-Indies : and the press continued with great violence in most of the ports of England, several thousand able hands were picked up, and many entered themselves voluntarily.

Neither were the french indolent ; but with their usual diligence were very vigorous in their naval preparations ; and in the beginning of 1755, laid a general embargo on all the ports of France, to man with the utmost expedition, a fleet which was fitting out in Brest ; and so early as the first of january, sir Thomas Robinson, one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state, was informed by de Cosne, the
secretary

secretary of the embassy at Paris, that seventeen men of war were ordered to be equipped at Brest; the admiral's ship to be of 70 guns, and that the greatest part of this fleet was destined for America. In the sequel we shall find, that de Cosne's advice proved true; but he was not the only one that sent this intelligence to the ministry in England, for it was repeated from many places, particularly from Paris, with many additional circumstances. And indeed the truth was, that the french exerted at this time all their diligence and industry to forward their preparations for getting a strong squadron to sea, which at that time was advancing very fast at Brest, where they worked night and day to fit the ships for sea. Nor were these armaments confined to Brest only, Rochfort and Toulon were filled with workmen; but matters were not so forward there as at Brest, the squadron at which port was expected to be ready to sail by the middle of april; but in this calculation, the french were mistaken. Many of the ships that were to compose this squadron, were to carry no more than 20 or 22 guns, as they were designed for the transporting a large body of land forces. However, although the orders from court were positive, the wind would not permit this fleet to sail till the third of may; at which time it did with so fair a wind, that it was out of sight in a short time. This grand fleet consisted of 18 sail of the line and 9 frigates, carrying 1532 guns.

On the 20th of may Macnamara the admiral, returned to Brest, with nine ships of the line, having convoyed the transports beyond the capes; and left them to proceed to Canada, according to their instructions, with a fair wind.

Now we have seen the french fleet to sea, it is necessary to return, and take notice of what had been doing in England by sea during that time. The ministry here, were very active in their naval preparations, to get the english fleet to sea as soon as that of France;

France; and indeed they were before the french by a fortnight; for admiral Boscawen sailed from Portsmouth the 19th of april, with 13 sail of the line, and one frigate, carrying 738 guns, and 5300 men.

The reader only need compare the force of these two fleets together, and he will at first sight perceive the great oversight in the ministry's sending fourteen ships to intercept twenty-seven. And yet this egregious omission in british politicks, was still out-done by the remedy which was applied to supply the former defect. That of sending six ships of the line and one frigate, under admiral Holbourn, to follow Mr. Boscawen; who did not sail till the 11th of may, when it was scarce possible for him to escape Macnamara's fleet, which had sailed but eight days before. And yet, this was the only effort made by the british ministry for several months, to counteract the vigorous armaments of the whole naval power of France.

His orders were to join Mr. Boscawen as soon as possible; but this he was not able to perform, till the 21st of june, when he met with admiral Boscawen's squadron, formed in a line before the river St. Lawrence, cruising on the banks of Newfoundland; the same ship which brought the news of this junction, also acquainted the ministry with the capture of the Lys and Alcide, two french men of war in de la Mothe's squadron: these ships having parted from the rest, fell in with the english squadron, the admiral of which ordered the Dunkirk, Torbay, and Monarque to chace; and the Dunkirk coming up first with the Alcide, hailed the captain, requiring him to put back, and come under the admiral's stern; the frenchman in reply, asked if it was peace or war; captain Howe (the commander of the Dunkirk) said he did not know, but repeated his orders; the frenchman again asked, if it was peace or war; and captain Howe again replied, he knew not; but would

have him prepare for the worst, as he every moment expected a signal from the admiral to fire upon him for not coming to. At the same time, observing some soldiers, and land officers, with several ladies, standing very thick upon deck, he admonished them to go down; they soon complied, and the frenchman, not waiting for captain Howe's broadside, immediately fired upon him. The other french man of war struck to the Torbay and Monarque. This is the most probable account we had of this action; many people doubted whether there was any conversation at all between the two captains; but I have been assured by undoubted authority that there was*.

In the mean time the french were in some pain for their Squadron in America, lest it should be met with and intercepted in its return from thence: to remedy which, in the best manner they were able, they sent the nine ships with which M. de Macnamara returned to Brest, under the command of M. du Guay, a french admiral to favour their return, who set sail from Brest on the 4th of june.

His orders were to cruise on the coast of Portugal, to favour the return of M. la Mothe and Salvart, in case of bad news from America; du Guay cruised in the Atlantic ocean, near the streights of Gibraltar; but not meeting with the other french fleet, which did not return till some time afterwards, put into Cadiz; and during his stay in that place, the english ministry dispatched sir Edward Hawke on the 24th of july, with 21 ships of the line, and five

* The Dunkirk's guns in this fight were all double-shotted every round, and being yard-arm and yard-arm, did such terrible execution, that the officers of the Alcide could not keep the men to their quarters, and ran one of them through in order to deter the others; but all would not do, the frenchmen not liking such warm work; and M. le commodore himself, when he was brought prisoner on board the Dunkirk, told the brave captain Howe, that it was cruel to engage so very close.

frigates

frigates to intercept him, in his return to Brest, or any other french ships that might escape Mr. Boscawen. But this measure was much condemned by those who were knowing in sea affairs; for, according to the advices which the ministry received concerning the naval armaments of the french, it was probable, that Hawke might fall in with du Guay's squadron of nine ships, joined by five ships from Rochfort, and ten from Brest, (both which were ready to sail from that port;) and ten ships in their return from America. By which it appears, that Hawke with 21 ships might very possibly have fell in with 35 french ones; and I believe the ministry that planned his expedition, had not so very great an opinion of english courage as to suppose that Hawke would (in case of a battle) have come off conqueror.

Sir Edward Hawke's orders were to cruise off cape Finisterre, till the french ships should appear. If we are to judge of the wisdom of these orders by the success they met with, the reader, I believe, will not admire the prudence of them; for M. du Guay, as soon as he heard where Hawke was stationed, and what was his business, sailed from Cadiz for Brest; but not in the usual tract, which he did to avoid the english fleet; he steered directly west from Spain into the Atlantic ocean; when, being at a great distance from the coast, he changed his course, and stood directly for the land's end of England; by this precaution of sailing west to a great distance, before he steered towards the channel, he passed on the outside of all our fleet, cruising at cape Finisterre, and arriving safe in the channel, fell in behind it with his squadron, and got safe into the harbour of Brest, having left Cadiz the beginning of august. Sir Edward Hawke not having been successful in the cruise he was sent upon, was called home, where, however

however he did not arrive till the 29th of september*.

As to admiral Byng's expedition, or rather cruise, which he went upon the 14th of october, with ten sail of the line, being the western squadron; it did not afford much speculation for history. It is enough to say, that he returned the 22d of november, not having done any action of consequence.

I shall here present the reader with an affair, that reflected no great honour on the person chiefly concerned. I mean, the court martial on lord Harry Powlett. It seems lord Harry commanded his majesty's ship the *Barfleur*, one of the squadron with which sir Edward Hawke was sent to intercept the french admiral, du Guay. The case was this; in consequence of verbal orders from sir Edward Hawke on the 23d of august, in the morning, lord Harry Powlett in the *Barfleur*, gave chase to a sail in the south east, which he pursued all night, and next morning was unable to find the fleet; and finding his rudder in a very bad condition, was obliged to put into port, without orders for so doing from the admiral. And for this action capt. Powlett was tried by a court martial, held on board the *Prince George* in Portsmouth harbour, the 20th, 21st, and 22d of october.

The following were the members that composed this court, viz.

Henry Osborne, esq. vice-admiral of the red,
president.

Capt. Roger Martin,

Hon. capt. John Hamilton,

* I should here mention a pretty extraordinary instance of the feigned politeness of our enemies the french; or rather of their pretended justice: I mean the capture which M. du Guay's squadron made, in its return to Brest, of the Blandford man of war of 20 guns, having governor Lyttleton on board for Carolina, and which was afterwards restored by order of the french court; I leave my readers to reflect on this piece of politeness.

Capt.

Capt. George Bridges Rodney,
 Capt. John Montague,
 Hon. capt. George Murray,
 Capt. Thomas Fowke,
 Capt. Richard Tyrrel,
 Capt. William Lloyd,
 Capt. R. Edwards.

The court having heard the evidence, and also what the prisoner had to offer, were of opinion, that he did not judge and act right in giving chase on the 24th of august, to a sail seen in the south-west, when three sail were seen in the north-east, which might probably be part of the fleet; but it having clearly appeared to them, that his intentions were upright towards the service, as he had before used his utmost endeavours to rejoin the fleet, on the station it was in, when he separated from it, and did afterwards use the like endeavours to join it on the rendezvous, they do not think this error deserving of punishment, and do therefore unanimously only judge it proper to admonish him, as he is hereby admonished to be more cautious in his future conduct.

As to his returning into port, the court are of opinion, that, considering the defects of the ship's rudder, his proceeding therein was very justifiable, and therefore they do unanimously acquit him of all blame upon that account; and he is hereby acquitted accordingly *.

It requires much caution to reflect on such unlucky affairs as these. It is impossible for any person to be able to say, whether the court martial on lord Harry Powlett acted justly or not; but a private man is not to find fault with the proceedings of a court of justice: thus much I may be allowed to say, the nation was not pleased with their sentence, with how much reason, I will not determine; but only observe, that lord Harry Powlett has never been employed since, in any station of importance.

Such

Such was the determination of this unfortunate affair. The nation, in general, at this time, was eager to have every military offender severely punished. At the eve of a war, examples of a just severity are, certainly necessary; but more particularly so, when a constant train of ill success had baffled all our military undertakings. At the beginning of every war, it is necessary to rouse the english from that fatal confused inactivity, which so distinguishes their councils from those of many other nations. But when once the spirit of the people is raised, it is then that english courage becomes successful, to the terror of their enemies.

The first of the month of July, 1756, the english forces in North America were ordered to march on the city of Albany, which was then in the possession of the french. The english were to be supported by the french, who were to be supported by the indian forces. The english were to be supported by the french, who were to be supported by the indian forces. The english were to be supported by the french, who were to be supported by the indian forces.

CHAP. I. The first of the month of July, 1756, the english forces in North America were ordered to march on the city of Albany, which was then in the possession of the french. The english were to be supported by the french, who were to be supported by the indian forces. The english were to be supported by the french, who were to be supported by the indian forces.

C H A P. IV.

American affairs to the end of the year 1755. The chief command in North America falls on major general Shirley. His march to Oswego. Dunbar marches to Philadelphia. Battle at Lake George. Transactions at New York. Grand council of war. Plan of operations for the ensuing year agreed on. Reflections on the fruitless campaign of 1755.

I Left (at the end of the first chap.) general Brad-dock utterly defeated by the french, and slain; on his unfortunate catastrophe, the command of his majesty's forces in North America devolved on major general Shirley, who having left New York, arrived at Albany in the beginning of july. This city was then the grand theatre for all the preparations, for the northern expedition against Crown Point, as well as that to the westward, for the reduction of Niagara. The general, on his arrival here, did not find the military preparations in such forwardness as he had reason to expect; insomuch, that he was obliged to wait at Albany on several disagreeable accounts; but his own troops were, in the mean time filing off, in different divisions from Schenactady, towards Oswego.

Oswego has long been the accustomed route, it is computed to be about 300 miles west from Albany, was formerly garrisoned by twenty-five men; but on the commencement of the late disputes the number was augmented to fifty; and early this spring fifty more were ordered up: and at the latter end of may capt. Bradstreet arrived there with two hundred, besides workmen to be employed in the naval preparations, pursuant to the scheme concerted in the congress of commissioners at Albany the last summer. On the 24th of july, general Shirley arrived at Schenactady,

nectada, where he found lieut. col. Ellison had embarked the day before, with the 5th division of the 50th regiment, for Oswego; and that lieut. col. Mercer with five companies of the 51st, and one of the 50th, were still remaining for want of battoe-men. On the 29th, the general embarked with 97 battoes, loaded with military stores, provisions and other necessaries for the expedition; together with about 200 regular troops, 150 battoe men, and 40 indians, for Oswego, leaving orders for lieut. col. Mercer to follow him as soon as possible.

At last, on the 18th of august, Mr. Shirley arrived at Oswego. He found the works there in a very bad condition; the chief strength of the fort, was its being mounted with five small cannon, three or four pounders; it consisted of a stone wall, and was situated on the south edge of Lake Ontario.

As soon as he arrived there, he took a survey of the fortifications, and the adjacent country; and gave orders for erecting on the point, a strong log pallisaded fort, capable of mounting large cannon, and containing barracks for 300 men, which, from the dimensions of its logs, might be defensible against three or four pounders; and, if it should be thought requisite to have a strong, regular fortification built round it another year, it would be of service whilst the new works were erecting; and for securing the place to the southward of the old fort, he determined, as soon as hands and time could be spared for it, to have a small square fort of earth and masonry, with four bastions, a rampart, parapet and ditch, containing barracks for 200 men, built on the other eminence.

General Shirley, during his stay, received several accounts of the strength and designs of the french at Niagara, which made him resolve upon an expedition thither; and the works of the new fort which he was building at Oswego, were so far advanced, that he hoped it might be ready in a few days

days to receive its artillery, he proposed to proceed to Niagara, with 600 regulars, besides the albany men and indians, and a small train of artillery; and having ordered the preparations to be forthwith made for the intended attempt; the 600 troops were drafted, and held themselves in readiness to embark. One great inducement for Mr. Shirley to persist in the resolution he had taken to attack Niagara, was the arrival of eight battoes at Oswego, on the 27th of september, containing forty barrels of flower, and thirteen of bread, which were the species of provisions wanted.

The reader will no doubted be surpris'd when he hears, that for all the advantages attending the Niagara expedition, yet it was laid aside by the general till the next year. The considerations which had the greatest weight with him, to induce him to take this resolution, were these: that nothing more could have been done that year (supposing he had got the troops and artillery safe before it) than to dislodge the french and demolish the works, as the state of his provisions would not admit of his leaving a garrison there, during the winter, for its defence; so that an effectual possession of that pass could not have been taken that year; whereas, in the mean time, during the absence of the vessels from Oswego (all of which, it was necessary for Mr. Shirley to have taken with him upon his attempt against Niagara) it would have been in the power of the french to have transported a train of artillery without opposition, a-crois the lake to fort Frontenac, and have landed them near the eminence, behind the old fort of Oswego, where the intended new fort was not begun to be built; in which case, they might not only have made themselves masters of Oswego, but must have cut off Mr. Shirley's return from Niagara; which would have been fatal likewise to the troops.

Such were the reasons given by Mr. Shirley and his friends, for not proceeding against Niagara; certainly the

the argument used to persuade us, that the scheme was really impossible to be executed successfully, is entirely fallacious, and its very foundation is fapped, when we come to enquire, why the works which Mr. Shirley erected at Oswego were not finished, or at least so far in forwardness, as to permit him to attempt the expedition : nor can I conceive, that it was so utterly impossible to leave a garrison in Niagara during the winter, since by the situation of that fort the french would not have been able to make themselves masters of it in that season, with the force which it was in their power to use against it. But one of the greatest objections to this change in the general's opinion is, his pretending that he could not leave the garrison in Niagara, by reason of the scarcity of provisions ; for it will be very palpable to the reader that the general did not use his utmost care in that article of providing provisions, at least in so great a degree as is pretended by his friends : it is very plain by the other parts of his conduct in this expedition, that he was well provided with every thing but provision ; and that he was not so very badly off in that regard as is pretended.

The difficulty which the general met with in forwarding the two forts, he was building, was certainly great ; but not in so great a degree as has been thought : It should be considered, that they were erected without any regular engineer, (an officer though, I should suppose Mr. Shirley might have procured) at the distance of 300 miles from any english settlement, where a larger supply of proper workmen and materials for strong fortifications could not be had ; and the bad weather retarded his expedition considerably ; besides which, part of their time was taken up in finishing a vessel then building for his majesty's service, in order to preserve the command of lake Ontario ; together with a large hospital and barracks for winter quarters, to contain upwards of 900 men ; the timber for all which, was to be cut from the

stem, and the ground on which the forts were building, to be cleared of the trees and underwood, with which it was covered.

The general having settled these matters at Oswego, and finding a great accession of business advance, upon the death of general Braddock, began to think of leaving Oswego, and proceeding to the colony of Massachusetts's bay, of which he was governor.

Upon his departure, he left orders with the commanding officer of the garrison to finish the two forts in his absence; for although Mr. Shirley had spent so much time at Oswego, yet these forts were not near complete; but to assist the commanding officer in furnishing and strengthening them, and the other works, he sent two engineers as early in the spring as he could.

I remarked before, that Mr. Shirley calculated these forts more for defence against musketry and small cannon of two or three pound ball, than large battering ones: for securing the forts against such as might be conveyed by the french on the lake, he depended upon having a superior naval force on the lake Ontario; on supposition that, if his majesty's vessels kept the command of the lake, it would be impracticable for the french to attack Oswego. Having settled these matters, the general set out on the 24th of October, in a whale boat, attended by some battoes; and arrived at Albany the 4th of november.

Such was the end of the Oswego expedition: the service which the general did there, had its uses; but he completed nothing; more might have been expected, considering the time he spent there; he certainly might (from the several accounts which we have of this transaction) have left Oswego in such a condition, as to have had nothing to fear from a french invasion; the great difficulty of transporting cannon in that wild country, did indeed, in some measure, insure the safety of the fort; but then we find

find that the general was strangely out, in his imagining, that he rendered the lake secure by his naval force; he ought certainly to have left Oswego in such a condition, as to have been able to resist any force that the french could bring against it, by any road whatever, whether by land or the lake; and this surely the general might have done, in the time he spent there.

I shall now pursue the account I gave of the military transactions under colonel Dunbar, in the southern colonies. Having reached fort Cumberland, he dispatched an indian express to general Shirley, with an account of the defeat, and the necessary returns respecting the troops under his command; acquainting him, moreover, with his intention of marching to Philadelphia, and his hopes of meeting his orders at Shippensburg. About the same time Mr. Dinwiddie wrote to Dunbar, proposing a second attempt on fort du Quesne; but a council being thereupon held, the members of which were col. Dunbar, lieut. col. Gage, governor Sharpe, major Chapman, major Sparke, and sir John St. Clair, it was unanimously conceived, that Mr. Dinwiddie's scheme was impracticable. The very next day, being the 2d of august, Dunbar began his march towards Philadelphia, with 1600 men, four six pounders, and as many cohorns; leaving behind him the Virginia and Maryland companies, and about 400 wounded. At this sudden departure of the forces, the Virginians were extremely disobliged, as not only exposing their frontiers and occasioning the daily desertion of their provincials; but because the enemy in flying parties, penetrated into the province, and on many of the inhabitants committed robberies and murder. Dunbar certainly acted right in retreating to Philadelphia; for this reason, because in that province was seated one of the most considerable cities in all our plantations, which would have been of greater consequence to the french to conquer, than ten times the number of scattered

settlements in Virginia, of which that whole province consists.

Upon the advices received from Dunbar, Mr. Shirley gave orders for renewing the attempt; if the southern colonies would readily afford him a competent reinforcement: governor Morris having convened the Pennsylvania assembly, he informed them of the retreat of the english army, and in a well drawn pathetic speech, pressed them to vigorous measures for the defence of their borders. They proceeded so far, as to vote the raising 50,000 l. but offering a bill for taxing the proprietary estate, an immediate rupture ensued; and in this manner broke up an assembly of as obstinate v-----s, as any fellows that ever were sent over from Great Britain thither for slaves. Virginia being almost equally open to the irruptions of the enemy, four companies of rangers were ordered out, and the assembly voted 40,000 l. for furnishing 1000 men for the defence of their frontier. About the same time the council and assembly of New Jersey met, and the latter voted 30,000 l. for the public service; but as the house proposed to prolong the currency of the bills for nine years, to which Mr. Belcher (the governor) not being able to assent, 15,000 l. only, was raised, and its use restricted to keeping on foot her regiment at Oswego, commanded by col. Schuyler. At New York, the house of representatives assembled on the 5th of august, and set out with a generous spirit. They resolved to reinforce the provincial army destined for Crown Point with 400, the bill was actually passed the house for that purpose; but it afterwards dropped.

About a month before the departure of general Shirley from Oswego, major general Lyman being advanced with the troops to the carrying place, about 60 miles from Albany, was waiting the arrival of general Johnson, who set out from thence the 8th of august, with the train of artillery. Lyman had begun a fort at the landing, on the east side of Hudson's

son's river, now called fort Edward. About the latter end of the month, general Johnson, with the main body, moved forward, 14 miles more northerly, and pitched his camp at the south end of lake George, before called lake Sacrament. By some indians, who had been sent as scouts, he received the following advices : that they had discovered a party of french and indians at Ticonderoga, situated on the isthmus between the north end of lake George and the southern part of the lake Champlain, 15 miles on this side Crown Point ; but no works were then thrown up. To have secured this pass, which commanded the route to Crown Point, through the lake, had been a measure extremely adviseable. Mr. Johnson, informed of its importance, on the 1st of september, wrote to general Shirley, that he was impatient to get up his battoes ; proposing then to proceed with part of the troops, and seize upon that pass ; the french however took advantage of this delay of general Shirley's, and cut out work enough for him at his own camp.

The french fleet, which admiral Boscawen failed in the spring to intercept, carried over, as I have elsewhere mentioned, the troops destined for the defence of Canada, with Mons. de Vaudreuil, governor general, and the baron de Dieskau, commander of the forces. The french court well apprised of the singular consequence of Oswego, had determined to reduce it. Such being the baron's instructions, he immediately proceeded to Montreal, from whence he detached 700 of his troops up the river, intending himself speedily to join them with the remainder. Just before he had made the necessary preparations, Montreal was alarmed with the news of our forming a numerous army near lake St. Sacrament, for the reduction of fort Frederick, and perhaps to penetrate into the heart of Canada. Whereupon, a grand council being held, the baron was importuned to proceed through lake Champlain, for the defence

of that fortress: nor was he without great difficulty prevailed upon to alter his intended route.

It seems that the baron de Dieskau, waited in expectation of our army coming up to give him battle; but being disappointed therein, he resolved to advance against Johnson; designing, if he proved victorious, to lay waste all our northern colonies, lay the towns of Albany and Schenectady in ashes, and cut off all communication with Oswego. For the execution of which design, he embarked at fort St. Frederick, with 2000 men in battoes, and landed at the south bay, about 16 miles from the english encampment; his design was, first to attack and make himself master of fort Edward, and then attack Mr. Johnson in his camp; this he proposed to his troops, and was heard with pleasure by the regulars of his army; but the canadians and the militia were very much averse to that plan, they agreed to the attack of the general in his camp, as they expected to meet with no cannon to oppose them; in this however they were mistaken, for the english artillery was got up to the camp from fort Edward a day or two before the action, and of which the french had no intelligence. Dieskau, thus disappointed in his principal design, changed his route, and began to move against the main body at the lake. General Johnson had received advice by his indian scouts, that the enemy was marching towards fort Edward, where 250 of the New Hampshire regiment, and five companies of the New York regiment were posted, under the command of col. Blanchard; this was on the 7th of september, and the next morning a council of war was held, in which it was agreed to detach 1000 men, in order, either to succour fort Edward, or meet the french general in his return from that post, whether he was victorious or not. Accordingly this body of men marched about nine o'clock, under the command of col. Williams, an officer much esteemed for his personal bravery and good conduct.

The

The situation of the english was this : they were encamped on the banks of lake George, being covered on either side by a thick wooded swamp ; in the front, the general had thrown up a breast work of trees felled, to which he drew up his cannon, that were afterwards of great service to him. The detachment under col. Williams was beat back by the french, about an hour and half after their departure ; being much inferior to the enemy.

About eleven, the enemy appeared in sight ; they marched in a very regular order towards the center of the english army, till they were within 150 yards of the breast work ; when, to the utter astonishment of the english general, Dieskau made a halt for some time, which proved his ruin ; the english army was in some consternation, and had the frenchman then began the attack, the fortune of the day might probably have been otherwise ; but when they found the french army made this ill-timed halt, their spirits recovered, and they prepared to resist the enemy with an alacrity, which forboded the approaching victory. However, Dieskau began the attack, at the center of the english army, in good order, with his regulars : the canadians and indians were concealed among the swamps, on the flanks of the english army, and maintained an irregular and scattered fire. The first regular fire from the french were their regular's platoons, but did no great execution, being at too great a distance ; on which the english artillery, commanded by capt. Eyre, began to play, when the engagement became general on both sides ; the french regulars behaved well, and kept their ground and order for some time, with great resolution and good conduct ; but the constant fire from the english artillery, disordered them, when their fire became very faint : they then moved to the right, and attacked col. Williams, col. Ruggles, and col. Titcomb's regiments, where they maintained a very warm fire for near an hour, still keeping up their fire in the other parts

parts of the line, but not very strong; the three regiments on the right, supported the attack so bravely, that the enemy was repulsed with considerable loss; at which time the english troops and indians leaped the breastwork pursued the enemy, slaughtered numbers, and took several prisoners; among whom, was the baron Dieskau, the french commander in chief, which made the victory on the side of the english complete; the pursuit of the enemy ended about seven o'clock. The loss of the french was upwards of 1000 men; that of the conquerors did not exceed 130 killed and 60 wounded; col. Titcomb was killed, major Johnson and major Nichols were wounded. Our greatest loss was in the detachment under col. Williams, who was killed, together with major Ashley, captains Ingersal, Puter, Ferral, Stoddert, M'Gimes and Steevens, all indian officers, with 40 indians and old Hendrik, the famous indian sachem.

It is to be remarked, that in this engagement, the indians (some of the Mohawks excepted) retired from the camp, and did not join the army till after the battle; this shows us very plain, that our good friends the indians were ready to join the conqueror, whether french or english; which I wonder at the more, as Mr. Johnson was allowed to have an universal influence over those with him in this expedition. But the general's conduct was impeached of a much greater mistake than that he was guilty of, in putting too much confidence in his indians, his not following the blow he had gained; it was objected against him, that had he pursued the enemy close, with spirit, he might with little difficulty have made himself master of Crown Point, the chief object of the expedition. It must be allowed that if we consider several expressions in the general's letter to the governors of the colonies, we shall find reason to believe, that he did not make the most of his advantage; and his seeming to be so much afraid of a "more formidable attack," makes us think that he had conceived much too great notions

notions of the enemy he had conquered : as to his own personal bravery, I never heard the least slur thrown upon that.

Governor Shirley, as I mentioned before, arrived at New York, from Oswego, the 2d of december ; having, before he left Albany, wrote circular letters to the several governors upon the continent, as far westward as Virginia, summoning them to meet him there, in order to form a council of war, consisting (pursuant to one of his majesty's instructions to him) of such of the governors upon the continent, and field officers of his majesty's troops, as could attend it. The council met the 12th, and although the invitation was general, it consisted but of few members.

Mr. Shirley opened the conference, by laying before them, his majesty's instructions to general Brad-dock ; and then delivered his own sentiments to the board ; who declared their opinion in favour of Mr. Shirley's schemes ; and, in particular, that it was most essentially necessary, at all events, to secure the navigation of the lake Ontario ; but they were of opinion, that 6000 troops should be employed in the expedition against the french forts upon that lake, and 10,000 in that against Crown Point ; and as to the proposed attempt against fort du Quesne, and operations upon the river Chaudiere, they were of opinion, they should be carried into execution, provided it could be done without interfering with the two principal expeditions : and after considering the points proposed to them by Mr. Shirley, they declared it to be their unanimous opinion that, an additional number of regular troops to those his majesty then had upon the continent, would be necessary for effectually recovering and securing his just rights there. The result of the council was, that Mr. Shirley, as he had received intelligence, that the french were building vessels of force at Frontenac, ordered a snow, a brigantine, and a sloop to be built, as soon as possible at Oswego ;
and

and determined to make preparations for carrying into execution the before-mentioned plan of operations in the ensuing year, as far as the forces he then should have, would permit him.

Such were the resolutions taken in this council of war; who adopted Mr. Shirley's opinion in every thing, and indeed with great reason; for certainly the plan of operations which he framed and laid before them, was drawn up in a masterly manner, and showed that the author of it was perfectly well acquainted with his business, in the theory at least; what he was in the practice of it, I shall have further occasion to mention hereafter.

But although the debates and resolutions in the cabinet were guided by wisdom, prudence, and foresight; the operations in the field, afforded but a melancholy prospect. How fruitless was the campaign of 1755! It was the misfortune of the english colonies to despise their enemy: they knew their own country was populous, fertile, and great part of it well cultivated; on the contrary, Canada was barren, and uncultivated, and had not a fiftieth part of the inhabitants, which were in their own; the parallel so advantageous to the english, proved almost their ruin; exalted with these notions of their superiority, they did not consider, that the french knowing their own inferiority, were resolved to make up, by the most unremitting diligence, what they wanted in point of numbers; for some time the event answered their expectations; for surely no country was ever in a more pitiful condition, than the english colonies were reduced to, by means of the incursions of the french and their indians; the defenceless country was one continued scene of all the horrors of war, rendered more terrible by the barbarous manner with which the indians make it. General Braddock, in whom their greatest hopes were centered, was defeated, and their enemies pouring in upon them, like an irresistible torrent, without any thing to oppose them:

them: and in full possession of all their formidable encroachments: all the english could boast of having done (to the south of Nova Scotia) was the building two paltry forts at Oswego, and they not compleate; and the fine speeches made in the council of war by the commander in chief: I am speaking of what concerned general Shirley; Mr. Johnson indeed, gained a victory over the enemy, which had very great consequences; but as to Mr. Shirley's expedition to Oswego, in which he spent so much time and money; I cannot reflect on it without regret. The manner in which the year 1755 ended, will be remembered in the annals of America, with sorrow. The weak efforts made by the english nation to recover its just rights, which were so scandalously trampled upon by the french; will be a lasting disgrace to the politics of a people who make so considerable a figure in Europe, and who were so able to protect their fellow subjects in America. Indeed, with the blessing of God, they have since had better success in so just a cause; and have exulted, with reason, in their turn; but under different generals, directed by very different councils. It will be my business to shew this hereafter; in the mean time, it is necessary to take a view of the transactions in Europe; which shall be the subject of the next chapter.

CHAP.

C H A P. V.

Transactions in England in the beginning of the year. Rouillé's letter to Fox, and his answer. Treaty with Prussia. Col. York, at the Hague, demands the 6000 troops. Parliament meets. King's message. Addresses, and king's answers. Parliament address the king to bring over the Hanoverians. King's message and speech. Parliament prorogued. Hanoverians and Hessians arrive. Declarations of war. Affairs in the East-Indies. Fort Geriah taken. Reflections.

FEW years ever opened the dawn of their contents, at a more critical time than the year 1756. The disputes between the kingdoms of England and France, was come to such a height, that a war was inevitable: although neither party chose yet to declare themselves openly, still it was very plain from the general circumstances of the two nations, that matters were come to such a crisis, as to be impossible to be healed. In America the war was become open and avowed, and it was expected to be the same in Europe every day; for all intercourse was cut off. Many discerning people were mistaken in their conjectures, when they thought they perceived a reconciliation between the two nations, near at hand, so far from it, that it was never further off. The ministry, who at this time presided in the councils of England, would have been glad to have procured a lasting peace between the french and english, could they have been able to do it without forfeiting their own honour, or what perhaps they esteemed a greater loss, their places. These gentlemen foresaw, very plain, that as soon as an irruption took place between the two courts, their power would fall to pieces, by reason of the multitude of factions and parties, which always spring up in the english court

court at the beginning of a war : urged by these reasons, they would have patched up matters with the french court, more speedily than the interest of their country required ; if the nation had not had a truer sense of the injuries received from the french. In this ticklish situation, ~~was~~ the court of England, at the beginning of the year 1756.

This year, so remarkable in the annals of Britain, was ushered in by the strange letter *, wrote by Mons. Rouillé, minister and secretary of state to the king of France, to Mr. Fox, secretary of state to the king of England ; it contained a pompous justification of the french king's conduct, and complaining of the hostilities committed by the english ; turning the whole blame of the war on the king of England. Mr. Fox's answer was wrote with the same design, complaining of the conduct of the french court.

Before I make any observations on the french memorial, I shall just add a remark on Mr. F—'s management of this affair, so far as it concerned his answer ; and that is, the scandalous manner in which the nation was disgraced by the beggarly french, in which Mr. F—'s letter was composed, and as such was printed in the Paris gazette. I leave the reader to judge, whether it is becoming the honour of the english nation, for its first minister to talk to a foreign court in any other language but that of his own nation.

Never did the chicanary of the court of France appear more glaringly, than in the above memorial ; nothing is more susceptible of the most mathematical demonstration, than that Britain was, in her own most just defence, forced into this war with France : stabbed at her vitals in America, she was either obliged to acquiesce supinely in the french manifold invasions there ; or to put a stop to them by repelling the aggression with a commencement of hostilities. An immediate declaration of war would, perhaps, have been more consonant to the established forms
of

* Vide appendix.

of practice; but since the french themselves had not paid any regard to them, in their own procedure; they could, at least, with the worse grace complain of our having followed the bad example they had set us; which was not the less real, for its being the less manifest to the rest of Europe.

But to clear up beyond doubt the falsity of the allegations contained in this memorial, we need but consider the following matters of fact, relating to it. It should be remembered, that in january 1755, the french ambassador returned to London, and made great protestations of his court's sincere desire, finally and speedily to adjust all disputes between the two crowns concerning America: and notwithstanding the extraordinary preparations which were at that time making in the ports of France, her ambassador proposed, " That before the ground and circumstances of the quarrel should be enquired into, " positive orders should be immediately sent to our " respective governors, forbidding them to undertake any new enterprize, or proceed to any act of " hostility; and enjoining them, on the contrary, to " put things without delay, with regard to the lands " on the Ohio, on the same footing that they were, " or ought to have been before the war; and that " the respective claims should be amicably referred " to the commissioners at Paris, that the two courts " might terminate the difference by a speedy accommodation."

The british court immediately declared its readiness to consent to the proposed cessation of hostilities, and that all the points in dispute might be discussed and terminated by the ministers of the two crowns; but on this condition, that all the possessions in America should be previously put on the foot of the treaty of Utrecht, confirmed by that of Aix la Chapelle; therefore, the king of England proposed, " That the " possession of the land on the Ohio should be restored to the footing it was on at the conclusion

"tion of the said treaty, which was renewed by that
 "of Aix la Chapelle ; and moreover, that the other
 "possessions in north America should be restored to
 "the same condition in which they actually were, at
 "the signing of the said treaty of Utrecht, and
 "agreeable to cessions and stipulations therein ex-
 "pressed : and then the method of informing the
 "respective governors, and forbidding them to un-
 "dertake any new enterprise, or act of hostility,
 "might be treated of ; and the claims of both par-
 "ties reserved, to be speedily and finally adjusted,
 "in an amicable manner between the two courts."

That is to say, that France should repay the injury done by open force, before the parties should enter into treaty about the claim of right, after which the possessions of both parties might be settled on the foot of a definitive agreement.

The reason for the french court's proceeding in this manner, is very palpable : nothing would have served their turn so well, as referring the case to be agreed on by the commissioners at Paris ; and the reason is very plain ; no sooner should we have ordered our american governors to desist from any acts of hostility, and referred our cause to negociation ; but the french would have set about strengthening themselves in America, by supplies from Europe, in such a manner, that they would at this day have been superior to the english in that country ; and not only have secured to themselves, the encroachments they had already made, but would in all probability have conquered all the back settlements belonging to the english colonies ; or, to use the words of a french writer, have "drove the english into the sea."

Negotiations at this period extended further than just between the two crowns of Great Britain and France ; the two kings of England and Prussia, at this time, thought it necessary for each other's welfare to enter into a negotiation for a treaty to keep all foreign troops from entering the empire ; which were

speedily brought to a conclusion ; for a treaty was signed between these two powers, on the 16th of january, this year : the reasons given by the british ministry for taking this measure, were chiefly centered in the design, to keep the french from invading the electorate of Hanover ; which it was very natural to expect they would really do, after they had threatened it in all the courts of Europe. The substance of this treaty was as follows :

I. That Great Britain with her allies, and Prussia, shall mutually assist each other, in endeavouring to keep all foreign troops from entering the empire.

II. That Great Britain shall pay 20,000 l. as an indemnification for the captures of that merchandize, which was taken on board prussian bottoms, and sold during the last war, and in return, that Prussia shall pay the Silesia loan.

The reader will perceive, that the most important article of this treaty is, that Great Britain and her allies, and Prussia, shall mutually assist each other in endeavouring to keep all foreign troops from entering the empire. And here it is necessary to recall to mind, the treaty concluded the last year with Russia, by which, as I before shewed, the Russians were to act in Germany, agreeable to the directions of his britannic majesty. From this it appears, that these two treaties with Russia and Prussia are, at least, seemingly contradictory to each other ; for by the russian treaty, the russians are to march into Germany, for the purposes of that treaty ; and by the prussian treaty, they are excluded from entering the empire, being foreign troops. I know to this, many specious political arguments are used by the friends of the english ministry, to persuade the world, that these two treaties are not in the least opposite and contradictory to one another, being solely designed for the protection of Hanover against the french ; but I must confess, that in my humble opinion, nothing can be more seemingly inconsistent ; I say seemingly,
for

for we know not what private reasons, (there certainly can be no public ones) might induce the english ministry to have concluded this treaty. In short, this is one of those surprising turns in the political world, which astonishes every one, as it leaves every one in the dark, and which nothing but time can make appear in its true light,

The situation of affairs in Europe were at this time extremely critical; every day produced some new reasons to believe, that a war was become inevitable between Great Britain and France; and it was much feared, that the quarrel between these two nations would involve the rest of Europe in the war; by reason of the open declarations, which France every where made of her intentions, to march an army into the electorate of Hanover; which it was thought would engage some of the german princes in the quarrel, as soon as any french troops invaded the empire. In the North, matters did not bid so fairly for war, as every thing was peaceable in those kingdoms; but the scene of negotiations on the continent of Europe at this time, was the Hague; where the ministers of the two belligerent powers were using their utmost endeavours to procure an interest in the republic, for their respective masters. It was then (the 13th of february) that col. York, the king of Great Britain's ambassador at the Hague, delivered to their high mightinesses an important memorial, importing, " That although his master had convinced all Europe of his desire to maintain the general peace that had lately subsisted; yet he found himself threatened with a war being kindled in his own dominions. That France was at that time making immense preparations of all kinds, particularly on the northern coasts, which were evidently designed against Great Britain; and which the french ministers at the several courts of Europe had confirmed, by their declarations. That these motives had obliged the king to demand the 6000 men, to be sent over to his

assistance, which the republic was bound to do by treaty; and that the necessary shipping for their embarkation, would be got ready immediately."

This memorial gave a clear and just account of the great preparations which France was at this time making on all sides. It is true, their destination was not then known; but, they were certainly very alarming to the court of Great Britain; there were at least 40,000 men assembled in Flanders, under the command of two marshals of France, these troops were posted there, for two reasons; the first to be ready to annoy England, and secondly to awe the dutch; for the french ambassador at the Hague, threatened the states general with an invasion, if they complied with the demands of Great Britain, in relation to the 6000 men. All the ports of France at this time resounded with the noise of preparations, which tended to invade Great Britain: troops from all the inland parts of the kingdom were continually swarming towards the northern coast. Indeed, in this case, it is natural for the reader to ask how it came about, that England was at this time so destitute of national force; for really it does not appear, but that the kingdom was not so very weak, as to make it necessary to call in the assistance of the troops, which Holland was by treaty obliged to furnish; but still as the dutch were bound to succour us, it was judged a necessary measure to demand the supply of 6000 men, as we might by that means perceive how they stood affected towards the english.

The truth was, these phlegmatic friends were so much under the influence of France, that upon the french ambassador's presenting a memorial to the states general, on account of the demand made by England, they refused to send the succours, although they were bound so to do by treaty; nor will they surprise us much, when we consider the quantity of french gold that was made use of to procure this resolve, which reflected so much dishonour on the states
of

of Holland ; but France is never without her pensioners at the Hague.

Matters were become so warlike between the two nations, that many in England really believed, that the french intended to invade us ; it is very plain that the ministry did not think themselves perfectly secure, from a message which his majesty sent to the parliament, in which he acquainted them, that he had received sure advice of a design formed by France to invade his kingdoms, which his majesty had great reason to believe true, from the immense preparations making on the coast of France : that his majesty had, with their advice, augmented his forces, and made a requisition of a body of hessian troops, to be brought over, as they are obliged to be by treaty : that his majesty doubted not, but he should be supported on this occasion by his parliament, in opposition to any such daring attempts.

Never did any parliament shew more unanimity than was discovered on reading this message ; it was agreed, without any opposition, that an address of thanks should be presented to his majesty, assuring him of their inviolable attachment to his person and government, against the hostile attempts of France.

In return for so much loyalty and affection, his majesty answered, “ That he thanked them for their repeated assurances of their unalterable zeal, duty, and affection to him, on this occasion, and has the utmost confidence in their vigorous support.”

As I have several times mentioned the alarm that prevailed in England, to so great a degree, of a french invasion, it will be necessary to acquaint the reader, that the parliament was now so much of opinion that the nation was really in danger, as to address the king, to bring over a body of the hanoverian troops, for the protection of the kingdom, against the designs of France ; to which his majesty returned the following answer. “ I am always very

“ glad to do any thing that is agreeable to my parliament, and for the benefit and security of my people ; and as both houses desire that a body of my german troops should be brought over hither, to assist in defence of this kingdom, in the present critical conjuncture, I will give immediate orders for that purpose.”

I cannot pass over an affair which made so great a noise half Europe over, as the address of the british parliament. It is difficult to say, what could possess the nation with such an universal dread of an invasion, as at this time ran through all degrees of people, from the highest to the lowest. Every true briton, that loves his country and esteems its honour, will look back upon it with detestation. Will it not be recorded to the dishonour of the british nation, that she was forced to ask the assistance of the electorate of Hanover, to defend herself against an imaginary danger ; for it is well known, that all the mighty preparations of France, were, at this time, destined for a different expedition, which afterwards fully appeared : and this disgrace is yet more fully displayed, when we consider, that at this time, very few english troops were absent in the East or West-Indies, or the american colonies. Would it not have been more honourable in the nation, to have raised an army of the natives to defend their own country, than to call in the assistance of foreigners ; and after all the noise and bustle that was made in trumpeting out the danger the nation was in, when it was pretended that a concatenation of events foretold this danger, that after all, it should turn out a mere stratagem of the french court, to deceive the english ministry.

As I am now mentioning the affairs of the parliament this session, for the sake of perspicuity, I will continue my account till the end of the session ; first taking notice of the message which his majesty sent to both houses, the 11th of may, signifying, “ That
“ his

“ his majesty being desirous to be prepared against
 “ all attempts and designs whatsoever, that may be
 “ formed by his enemies in the present critical con-
 “ juncture, and considering that sudden emergencies
 “ may arise, which may be of the utmost import-
 “ ance, and be attended with the most pernicious
 “ consequences, if proper means should not be im-
 “ mediately applied, to prevent or defeat them ; his
 “ majesty hoped, that he shall be enabled by his par-
 “ liament, to concert and take such measures as may
 “ be necessary to disappoint or defeat any enterprises
 “ or designs of his enemies, and as the exigency of
 “ affairs may require.” To this message both houses
 presented the most loyal and dutiful addressees ; but
 what was much more conducive to the design in
 his majesty’s message, was the famous resolution of
 the house of commons, in consequence of this mes-
 sage, whereby they granted his majesty one million
 upon account ; a generosity hardly to be paralleled ;
 and this vote was in fact the most important piece
 of business performed this session of parliament. On
 the 27th of may, his majesty made a speech to both
 houses of parliament ; the following is them oft ma-
 terial passage :

“ The injuries and hostilities, which have been for
 some time committed by the french against my do-
 minions and subjects, are now followed by the actual
 invasion of the island of Minorca ; which stands gua-
 rantied to me by all the great powers of Europe, and
 in particular by the french king. I have therefore
 found myself obliged, in vindication of the honour of
 my crown, and of the rights of my people, to de-
 clare war in form against France. I rely on the
 divine protection, and the vigorous assistance of my
 faithful subjects, in so just a cause.”

After this speech, the lord chancellor signified his
 majesty’s pleasure, that both houses should severally

adjourn themselves until june the 18th, which they accordingly did; and on that day they again adjourned themselves to july the 15th; but on the 7th they were prorogued to august the 17th, which put an end to the session.

Thus ended this session of parliament, that had been even more generous than any former ones, of late years at least. I have given the reader this abstract of parliamentary affairs together for the sake of brevity; as to the affair of Minorca, which his majesty mentions in his speech, I must desire the reader's patience for a little while, before I can give an account of an affair equally inglorious to my country and disagreeable to me. I should remember to observe, that during this session, that is on the 3d and 8th of may, the following votes were passed:

That there be granted to his majesty, for the charge of 6544 foot, with the general officers and train of artillery, of the hessian troops, from february 23d, 1756, to december 24 following, together with the subsidy pursuant to treaty, 163357 l. 9 s. 9 d.

May 8. For the charge of 8605 foot, with the general officers, train of artillery and hospital, of the Hanover troops, from may 11, 1756, to december 24 following, 121447 l. 2 s. 6 d.

In consequence of these votes, we find that on the 13th of may, two men of war, with 45 transports, having 8000 hessian foot and 900 horse on board, anchored in Margate road, and on the 15th landed at Southampton; with a large train of artillery. They were divided into eight regiments, ten companies in a regiment, eighty men in a company; each regiment having ninety engineers, eighty-seven horses, and eight field pieces. The principal officers were, the lieutenant general, count Isenburg, knight of the teutonic order, who was the first in command; lieutenant general baron Diebe, knight of the same order, who commanded the artillery; and baron Furstenburg, brother to the count, major generals. The
troops

troops made a fine appearance, being generally straight, tall, and slender; their uniform was blue, turned up with red, and laced with white, in imitation of silver. The officers, who were all well made, were richly dressed in blue, laced with gold, with that on their hats remarkably broad. They were quartered in the neighbouring towns, where they observed the strictest discipline.

On the 21st, the hanoverians landed at Chatham, to the number of 10,000 men, and began their march in two divisions; the first for Maidstone, and the other for Canterbury. They were received with great civility, and behaved with remarkable regularity. At Maidstone, some little disturbance happened, and complaint being made to the commanding officer, "Point me out the man," said he, "and prove him the aggressor, and you shall see him hanged immediately;" but this was thought too severe, and no particular man was pitched upon. These hanoverians, and the hessian troops were thought at that time to be some of the best soldiers in Europe; and we have since found them to behave with the greatest honour and bravery.

Amidst all these preparations for war, which had really brought on an open rupture between the two nations; all Europe was surprised that neither of the belligerent powers had yet declared war in due form. It was a matter of astonishment to the generality of mankind, to see two powerful kingdoms at open war, without any public universal manifesto concerning the reasons for their attacking one another. At last however, his britannic majesty thought it necessary to observe this usual decorum, and accordingly declared war against France on the 17th of may; and that of France against England was on the 9th of june,

Such were the state of affairs between the two nations in Europe, at the time war was declared. In the East-Indies, matters went on much faster, and
more

more prosperously to the english ; it was the beginning of this year, that the famous pyrate Tulagee Angria was conquered, and rooted out of his strong hold at fort Geriah, by the english forces under colonel Clive. But before we can give any account of the action itself, it will be necessary to say something concerning so extraordinary a man, as him we are speaking off. It seems that some years ago, the apcestors of Angria were viceroys to the great moghul, and governed a fine country on the Caromandel coast, where they lived with great splendor and opulence ; and by means of the great riches they amassed, were enabled for a considerable time to throw off their allegiance to the moghul ; but were afterwards reduced to obedience by a sovereign prince, whose dominions lay to the south of those of Angria, who was called the south raja ; this prince imposed a tribute on Angria, which was regularly paid for some years, till Tulagee Angria refused, about the year 1754 ; at which, the south raja was highly provoked ; and to chastise the insolence of Angria's behaviour, marched an army into his country, and blocked up all his towns ; the most considerable of which, were the ports of Zivanchi, Antiguria, Dabul, and south Rook. And to enable himself the more readily to destroy his enemy, he sent to the english at Bombay, to desire them to assist him, in his conquest of Angria.

With this request the english complied ; and admiral Watson commanding at that time in the East-Indies, he assisted at a council of war held at Bombay on the 6th of february. The land forces were under the command of colonel Clive. The admiral attacked Geriah on the 12th, and it surrendered on the 13th.

In the fort were found 250 iron and brass cannon of all sizes, and a prodigious quantity of ammunition of all sorts, provisions, rich goods, and many other commodities. The garrison consisted of about 300 men, though

though there were above 2000 in the fort. In silver rupees were found about 100,000 l. and in other effects near 30,000 l. The admiral left about 300 of the East-India company's troops, as many seapoys, and 3 or 4 of the company's armed vessels in the harbour, for the defence of the place, as it was judged to be extremely well situated for the interest of the company, and very tenable.

In this successful manner ended the expedition against Angria; which was of infinite service to the East-India company's affairs, as it rooted a notorious pyrate from his fortrefs of the greatest consequence to him. It is thought that col. Clive got above 100,000 l. by this affair, and the admirals and other officers were equally fortunate in this important conquest. The french in this part of the world looked with a very envious eye upon this success; as no doubt they did not care to see the exaltation of a company, who were the enemies of that nation, and who were every day excelling them in their trade. This was the first warlike expedition of consequence in the East-Indies this war.

C H A P. VI.

Naval affairs in the beginning of 1756. Hawke sails from St. Hellen's. Rumours of a french invasion. Holbourn sails for north America. Boscawen from St. Hellen's. Hawke with his fleet arrives at Spithead. Preparations at Toulon. State of the affairs of Europe. The french fleet sails from Toulon. Siege of St. Philip's. Byng sails from St. Hellen's. Battle off Minorca. Fort St. Philip's surrenders. Reflections. Hawke takes the command from Byng. Lord Tyrawley arrests general Fowke. Byng and Fowke arrive in England.

IT has with great reason been made a matter of wonder, that the french monarchy has been able for near a century past, to produce at the same time such powerful armaments both by sea and land. No other nation in Europe has been so powerful at sea and land at the same time as France, except England; and the naval strength of England has never stood such severe trials as that of France. The power and resources of a nation are best discovered by its losses; every war that has happened between France and England, since Charles the first's time, has never failed to be more ruinous to the former than the latter; and many times has been entirely destroyed, more particularly at the end of the war of 1740. The arms of Great Britain were not so successful the beginning of this war, neither by sea nor land, as the greatness of our preparations might have inspired us with the hopes of. At the beginning of this year particularly, all the ports of England resounded with the noise of naval armaments; the rigorous method of pressing men to man the fleet was now adopted with the utmost severity, and many thousands of able hands were picked up throughout all England; infomuch, that most part of the month of january
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we had a noble fleet riding at Spithead, besides several strong squadrons at sea, to protect our own trade and annoy that of the enemy. The naval affairs, though they are always of importance, and necessary to be known, towards a perfect understanding of the present quarrel between the two nations, yet, during the beginning of 1756, we meet with few squadrons, that sailed from british ports, whose motions are any ways instructive to the reader; the most material one at this time was, sir Edward Hawke's expedition. The lords of the admiralty having been informed that six french men of war had sailed from Brest, ordered admiral Hawke on the 27th of february to put to sea immediately, but he was detained till the 12th of march by contrary winds, on which day he sailed with the East-India ships, to convoy them 150 leagues westward of Ushant. He was then ordered to return to cape Ortegal, and cruise in the bay, to prevent the french ships putting to sea from Brest or Rochfort, or to intercept the aforesaid french squadron. This squadron consisted of eleven ships of the line and one frigate.

Sir Edward Hawke, according to his instructions cruised till the beginning of may, for the french, but unluckily was not able to effect any thing. He returned to Spithead the 8th with part of his squadron.

During the first part of this year, the french had by all the arts and means in their power endeavoured to persuade the english, that they really intended to invade them. It is even to this day a doubt, whether the french, at the time we are speaking of, had ever really determined to attempt an invasion. The preparations they made were certainly considerable; and it was confidently talked of, at most of the courts of Europe, that England was in great danger. It was at this time the common topic of conversation; those who were most persuaded of the reality of the french designing to invade us, said even in a positive manner,

manner, (and the advices that were received from the Hague on this head corroborated exactly with that opinion) that the plan for invading Great Britain was proposed by M. de Belleisle, who offered to undertake the execution thereof; but that he had been violently opposed by M. de Seychelles. The marshal's plan, was not to attack any of the powers on the continent; and particularly to leave Hanover quiet; but at the same time to assemble three large armies on the frontiers of Alsace, Flanders, and Languedoc, in order to keep the powers in Europe in awe and suspense. Then seriously to attempt an invasion of Great Britain or Ireland, or both, by getting together as many vessels as possible in different ports, with every thing necessary for an embarkation. And he further advised the french king, not to send out any large squadrons of men of war, but only some light cruisers to cover the arrival and departure of their transports; to give notice of the motions of the english, and to carry supplies to their colonies; however, at Brest he thought it necessary to have a very large fleet ready to give umbrage to the english, and to serve as occasion should require. This was Belleisle's plan, and although we find that it, in general was rejected, still some motions of the french looked as if they had adopted part of it; the marshal, and the prince de Soubise, soon after began their circuit at Dunkirk, and from thence went from port to port quite to Brest, forwarding the preparations that were making all along the coast, seemingly to invade us.

Whether they really intended to put their threats in execution or not is unknown, yet they certainly gained one point of importance by these means; they deceived the attention of the british ministry, and were thereby enabled to render successful their designs against another quarter; besides which, the expence their preparations put the english to, in counteract-
ing

ing their designs, was to be sure of great consequence.

It was on account of these preparations on the coast of France, that, we were always obliged to keep a squadron of men of war in the Downs; and for the greater security, commodore Keppel sailed on the 7th of april to cruise off Cherburgh with a squadron of five ships, to burn the flat bottomed boats, which the french were building, and to pick up any strag-gling transports, that might fall in their way, the latter of these ends was pretty well answered by the commodore's success.

The naval strength which the english had at this time in America, was very small, in proportion to the great importance of that station: and the ministry in England was much blamed for not keeping regularly and constantly a strong squadron of men of war in that part of the world, to resist and annoy the operations of the french. At last, however, admiral Holbourn sailed from Plymouth, with seven sail of ships to convoy the transports, containing the reinforcement of troops that were justly thought necessary to repair the bad state of the british empire there, by checking the progress of France.

But in Europe, the naval equipments were more considerable; admiral Hawke, as I have before mentioned, was before Brest with a considerable fleet, to relieve which, admiral Boscawen sailed from Spithead with twelve sail.

So formidable an armament sailing to the coast of France, would naturally lead us to expect some attempt of importance. But this was not the case, the french ministry, by alarming us with the fear of an invasion, put us to such an immense expence to keep their fleets in harbour, and even this, we were seldom able to perform, for the french several times slipped through the english fleets lying before Brest. The principal reason that has been given by the british ministry for putting the nation to so great an expence merely

merely to coop out enemies up in their harbours; was, to hinder them at this time from sending succours to America. Admiral Hawke, as I said before, soon after arrived at Spithead with a small squadron.

Several other squadrons were fitted out, and sailed as cruisers, convoys, or squadrons of observation; but as their destination was not so important, I have for brevity sake omitted mentioning them. But I must now begin to take notice of a much more important affair, and which will require a more minute enquiry into the first appearances of the designs of our enemies: I mean the conquest of Minorca by the french.

It will be here necessary for me to trace out some advices which the ministry in England received concerning the preparations of the french in the port of Toulon; for from thence we must afterwards conclude, whether they had reason to believe that the french intended an invasion of the island of Minorca, or whether they only meant it as a feint to draw the attention of the english from the channel, that they might thereby be able to effect their grand design against Great Britain itself.

So early as the month of august 1755, the ministry in England had intelligence, from different parts, of the armament at Toulon. They were expressly informed, that orders had been sent thither, to equip with expedition, all the new ships, and to get the old ones also in a condition for service: that these orders were then pursued with great diligence, and that they were to take on board several companies of land forces, besides marines. That since the arrival of two expresses at Toulon, which had caused the holding of two extraordinary councils, attended by the principal officers of the marine, the hands which were at work in fitting out nine ships there, were doubled, and six other ships of the line put in commission, and ordered

dered to be equipped with the former nine, so as to be able to put all the 15 sail to sea before the 18th or 20th of august, and to be victualed only for three months. This intelligence was in part confirmed by the earl of Bristol, the english ambassador at Turin, who informed the ministry, that all the master builders were commanded to repair immediately from the ports of Provence, &c. to Toulon; and that a body of 20,000 french troops were prepared to form a camp at Valence in Dauphine: these advices were exactly confirmed by consul Birtles, from Nice. But consul Banks, in his letters from Carthage, dated the 20th and 27th of august, is still more explicit; "Masters of french vessels from Toulon," says he, "report, that there are in that port 26 men of war of the line, viz. 18 new ships built since the peace, and 8 old ones, which are all fitting for sea; also 12 frigates, and a great many smaller vessels, which are in like manner fitting out; besides six ships of the line on the stocks; some of which are ready for launching: that he had received intelligence of 180 battalions of soldiers marching into Roussillon with great diligence; and that these troops were designed against Minorca, to be transported thither in merchant ships, now at Marseilles, and to be convoyed by all the men of war in the port of Toulon."

These advices were constantly repeated: not a month passed, without innumerable assurances being received at the secretary of state's office, from lord Bristol, general Blakeney, general Fowke, sir Ben. Keene, and, in short, all the consuls in the Mediterranean, concerning the great preparations which were carrying on at Toulon. Sir Ben. Keene wrote to Mr. Fox, particularly assuring him, "that the french designed to invade Minorca." Nothing could be more circumstantial than the repeated advices which the english ministry received of the designs of France. But let

tis see what were their measures to oppose such formidable preparations.

There were at this time in the Mediterranean a small squadron of three ships of the line, and five frigates, under commodore Edgecombe; but no fleet was ordered to sail from England, for the protection of Minorca, till the 8th of march; when a squadron was directed to be under the command of vice-admiral Byng, and to be ready by the 11th. It is impossible to account for the negligence of the english ministry, in not thinking of this valuable island before so late a date: it is also as unaccountable, that they should not believe any of the advices, which their correspondents all over Europe gave them, of the reality of the design of the french, in making such immense and early preparations at Toulon. Had they believed the truth of these advices, they certainly would have taken care that their administration should not be tarnished with the loss of so important a fortress as that of St. Philip's: it is very well known, how lightly they treated the notion of an invasion of the island of Minorca; they did not think it possible, that the french could procure sailors sufficient to man their fleet; if they had supposed it possible for the french to put so strong a fleet to sea from Toulon, as they afterwards fatally found to be the case, why did they not send admiral Osborn's squadron, of 13 ships of the line, and one frigate, into the Mediterranean, who sailed the 30th of january (and returned the 16th of february) to convoy a fleet of merchantmen. By sending this squadron into the Mediterranean so early, the french would naturally have been deterred from attempting the invasion; their success in which expedition, entirely depended on the negligence of their enemies.

At last however, they exerted themselves so far, as to send a fleet under admiral Byng to the Mediterranean,

hean, consisting of ten ships of the line *, which sailed the 7th of april.

However, in France more expedition was used. The marshal duke de Richelieu was already set out from Paris for Toulon, with the officers who were to serve under him, and arrived there the 25th of march, finding every thing in great readiness. The fleet † sailed the 12th of april, consisting of 13 sail of the line and 7 frigates.

* Ships.	Guns.	Captains.
Ramilies,	90 Byng.	Gardner.
Buckingham,	70 West,	Everet.
Culloden,	74	Ward.
Revenge,	70	Cornwall.
Captain,	70	Catford.
Trident,	64	Durell.
Intrepid,	64	Young.
Kingston,	64	Parry.
Lancaster,	60	Noel.
Defiance,	60	Andrews.

† Ships.	Guns.	Captains.
Foudroyant,	80	M. de la Galissoniere. Lieutenant General.
Couronne.	70	Capt. M. Forger de l'Aiguille. M. de la Clüe, chief d'Escarde.
Redoutable,	74	Capt. M. Gabanous. M. de Glandeves, chief d'Escarde.
Temeraire,	74	Capt. M. de Marconville. M. Beaumont l'Maitre.
Guerrier,	74	M. Villars de la Brosse.
Lion,	64	M. de St. Aignan.
Sage,	64	M. du Reveil.
Orphée,	64	M. du Raimondis.
Content,	64	M. Sabron Grammont.
Triton,	64	M. Mercier.
Hippopotame,	50	M. de Rochemaure.
Fier,	50	M. de Herville.
Junon,	46	M. Beauffier.
Rose,	26	M. de Costebelle.
Gracieuse,	24	M. Marquazan.
Topaze,	24	M. de Corné-Monlelet.
Nymphe,	24	M. de Callian.

The troops on board it, including a detachment of marines, in every ship of war, amounted to about 16,000 men, in 25 battalions, embarked in 200 transports: M. de Richelieu, his son, and his son-in-law; M. de Maillebois, M. du Mesnil, M. de Lannion, the prince de Beauveau, the prince de Wirtemberg, and M. de Causons, embarked on board the Foudroyant. The troops were all in merchant ships; the grenadiers alone were in the men of war. The fleet and convoy contained at a moderate computation, near 30,000 souls, including about 600 women; a prodigious quantity of provisions of every kind, above 800 oxen, and 3000 sheep, 100 horses, and as many mules.

The report of these immense preparations, which threatened to overwhelm the little island of Minorca, without a blow, did not in the least terrify the brave commander of the english troops in the fortress of St. Philip: no sooner did the information of the designs of the french reach general Blakeney, but he disposed all things for a brave and vigorous resistance; he prepared 40,000 fascines, and demolished all the trifling buildings which obstructed the open command of his cannon. The french landed at Cieutadella the 18th of april, from whence part of a regiment retired, evacuating the place to the enemy: Forty men, who belonged to the regiments at Gibraltar, and all the marines which were on board the men of war, then in the harbour, were commanded into the garrison, as a reinforcement; and the british squadron, six in number, sailed out; capt. Scroop having first, with 140 of his men, joined the garrison, and sent his ship, the Defiance, to sea, under the command of the first lieutenant.

I cannot omit taking notice of a patriot-like action performed by capt. Cunningham, a scotch gentleman, who being second engineer of St. Philips, when Mr. Armstrong left it, he was thereupon appointed by general Blakeney to succeed him, pro tempore, till a commission for that purpose should arrive from England,

land, of which no doubt was made; but being superseeded, he begged Mr. Blakeney's leave to retire to his regiment. The general could not refuse so reasonable a request, and Mr. Cunningham embarked for Nice, together with two children and his lady; who was there brought to bed; when Mr. Cunningham, hearing of the french designs against Minorca, and recollecting that the platforms of the batteries in fort St. Philip's were in such a ruinous condition, that they could not stand any hot service, instantly laid out all the money he was master of, about 1600*l*. in purchasing timber fit for repairing them, hired a vessel, put it on board, and sailed directly with it himself for Port Mahon, leaving his lady and children at Nice. His arrival with such a supply, in such a critical conjuncture, gave general Blakeney infinite pleasure. He told capt. Cunningham, that the service he had done his country, was so considerable, that he did not know how he could be sufficiently rewarded for it; that in the mean time, to show his own sense of it, he would venture to take a very irregular step, by superseeding the gentleman, who was sent to succeed Mr. Armstrong, as superannuated and unfit for duty, and appointing him in his place, not only as a testimony of his approbation of what he had done, but to engage a man of his known abilities, to exert them still further in defence of the place. We shall find hereafter that capt. Cunningham very well deserved the confidence Mr. Blakeney reposed in him; but the public spirited action which I have just now given an account of, is of itself so shining a proof of the merits of this gentleman, that any further attempt to make them conspicuous is unnecessary.

After many difficulties, the french being masters of all the forts in the island, except St. Philip's, and those adjoining to it, at length erected a battery of five 24 pounders, and five mortars, over against St. Philip's, at cape Mola, near Sandy bay, on the side

opposite St. Philipet fort, which was ready to play the 5th of May, but was left masked till others were ready also: this battery was well contrived, for by means of it the french commanded the harbour so much, that it would be difficult to land any succour, but within fire of it. For several succeeding days the enemy continued to erect batteries without intermission, and the besieged continued to defend themselves with as great bravery.

But I must here return to the motions which Mr. Byng made, to relieve the distressed garrison of St. Philip. I left the admiral proceeding to Gibraltar, where, after a tedious passage, he arrived may the 2d; and directly demanded of lieut. gen. Fowke, the governor, according to his instructions, a detachment from his garrison, equal to a battalion; but this demand Mr. Fowke did not think proper to comply with (although he had orders for that purpose from his majesty) till he had called a council of war, to demand the officers of his garrison's opinion on that point.

The council meeting on the 4th of may, took into their consideration three letters * from lord Barrington, his majesty's secretary at war, to the governor of Gibraltar, of the 21st and 28th of march, and 1st of april last; as also an order from the lords of the admiralty to admiral Byng of the 31st of march; and having considered the state of affairs in the Mediterranean, were of opinion, that the sending a detachment equal to a battalion would evidently weaken the garrison of Gibraltar, and be no way effectual to the relief of Minorca; for which opinion they gave several reasons, relating to the difficulty of landing them at Minorca, and its weakening the garrison of Gibraltar.

* Containing an order for general Fowke to make a detachment from his garrison to be sent on board the fleet, equal to a battalion.

This opinion of the council of war we shall afterwards find made a very great noise. But of this we must defer speaking, till other transactions naturally lead us to it. Admiral Byng having been delayed by watering, sailed the eighth from Gibraltar; he was afterwards accused of protracting this time longer than was needful. He arrived off Minorca the 19th, having been joined by his majesty's ship Phoenix, off Majorca, two days before. He dispatched the Phoenix, Chesterfield, and Dolphin a-head, to reconnoitre the harbour's mouth, and capt. Harvey to endeavour to land a letter for general Blakeney, to let him know the fleet was come to his assistance; but the enemy's fleet appearing to south east, and the wind at the same time coming strong off the land, obliged the admiral to call those ships in, before they could get near enough the entrance of the harbour to make the necessary observations. There being little wind, about five the admiral formed his line, on which the enemy stood towards him in a regular line; but tacked about seven, endeavouring to get the wind of the english fleet in the night; to avoid which, Mr. Byng tacked, in order to keep the weather gage, as well as to make sure of the land wind in the morning, being very hazy, and not above five leagues off cape Mola. At day-light, on the 20th, the two fleets were not within sight of each other. But soon after the enemy began to appear from the mast head, on which the english admiral called in the cruisers, and when they had joined him, tacked towards the enemy, and formed the line a-head, while the french were preparing to form their's to the leeward, having unsuccessfully endeavoured to weather their antagonist; but as soon as he judged his rear to be the length of the enemy's van, they tacked all together, and ordered the Deptford to quit the line: the reason which the english admiral gave for this step, was, that the english fleet might become exactly equal to the enemy's, which consisted of 12 ships of the line and 5 frigates.

frigates. At two, admiral Byng made the signal to engage, on which, rear admiral West instantly bore down on the enemy's ships opposed to his, and in going down received the fire of the french ships against him, three times, before he returned it, and then he soon obliged the two ships successively to sheer off, who were opposed to him. The admiral bore down upon the ship stationed against him, for some little time, but the Intrepid having his foretop-mast shot away, this, as the admiral gave out, obliged him and all his division to fall a-back; by this unaccountable management, the enemy's center was left unattacked, and the rear admiral's division quite uncovered; by which the french were enabled to bear down on admiral West, with the rear of their fleet, but they declined coming to a close engagement; and at last the several ships that were opposed to West's division sheered off, and bent their endeavours to destroy the rigging of the english ships, at a distance, while the english admiral was lying a considerable distance a-stern of his rear. Next morning the two fleets were out of sight of each other, and Mr. Byng sent cruisers out to look for the Intrepide and Chesterfield, who had parted in the night from the fleet, and they returned and joined them the next day.

Such was the event of this famous engagement; it is equally surprizing, that Mr. Byng should shew such great conduct and knowledge in management of the fleet before he threw out the signal for battle; and that he should then seem to have lost all the merit he had gained by his former proceedings. It is allowed by those who are understanding in sea affairs, that from the time he came in sight of the french fleet, till he hung out the signal to engage, he managed his fleet with infinite dexterity and judgment, by which means he preserved the weather gage against the enemy, who were not able, during the succeeding engagement, to recover it.

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On the 24th of may, the admiral desired the attendance of the rear admiral, &c. &c. at a council of war held on board the Ramillies, to ask their opinions concerning the future operations of the fleet; at which were present the admirals, and all the captains of the ships, and general officers of the land forces. The questions which were debated and the council's resolutions are as follows :

I. Whether an attack upon the french fleet gives any prospect of relieving Minorca ?

Ans. It would not.

II. Whether, if there was no french fleet cruising off Minorca, the english fleet could raise the siege ?

Ans. It could not.

III. Whether Gibraltar would not be in danger by any accident that may befall this fleet ?

Ans. It would be in danger.

IV. Whether an attack with our fleet in the present state of it upon that of the french, will not endanger the safety of Gibraltar, and expose the trade of the Mediterranean to great hazard ?

Ans. That it would.

V. Whether it is not most for his majesty's service that the fleet should immediately proceed for Gibraltar ?

Ans. That it should proceed for Gibraltar.

These resolutions were unanimously agreed to, and signed by all the members of the council. And to the astonishment of all Europe, a fleet in every respect equal to that of the enemy, and, considering the superior courage and dexterity of the common sailors, much superior to it, should fly from that of the enemy, leaving them all the consequences of a victory, riding triumphantly before Mahon, and gaining respect to the french flag throughout all the ports in the Mediterranean. Admiral Byng, on the 25th, set sail, and on the 19th of june arrived at Gibraltar:

braltar. As I shall have ample occasion to treat further of this affair hereafter, I shall not determine on it at present. It is now time to return to the governor of St. Philip's, bravely defending himself against the attacks of the french army.

For several days after the engagement of the 20th, the fire of both the besieged and besiegers continued very brisk ; but the besieged had always the advantage, owing to the superior weight of their cannon, and skill of the engineers *. During the fore part of the siege, this was constantly the case, but after the french general changed his plan of attack †, the garrison suffered

* The 13th in the morning, a very singular accident happened. In the fort, some guards parading in an under-ground gallery for safety, where, in the center was a hole to let in light, and receiving wood from a neighbouring magazine ; through this hole a 13 inch shell made way, and burst among the guards without the least hurt to one man. During the whole siege, the garrison did not meet with so providential an escape. Another extraordinary accident happened in the like providential manner : a ten inch shell falling into a barrack, the habitation of capt. Lind, in the castle, and breaking every thing before it, forced its way through the floor, and burst without hurting any body, though a piece of the shell even alighted on the bed where capt. Lind and his lady then lay.

† The 27th M. de Richelieu, having altered his attack, had some time before pitched upon this day for the general one, the evening before he called a council of war, at which were present all the general officers, to whom he imparted the whole project, which was unanimously approved : M. de Richelieu then proceeded to give them their respective charges.

The plan of the whole attack being made known to the army, M. de Richelieu resolved that his own post should be in the center of the attacks on the left, and that the count de Maillebois, the the marquis du Mesnil, and the prince de Wirtemberg, should attend him to give the necessary orders for the support and success of the attacks.

It was agreed, that the signal for beginning the attack, should be given by firing a cannon and four bombs, from the battery near the signal house. All things being thus ordered, the artillery continued to batter the forts, till the 27th, at ten o'clock in the evening, when they all ceased firing : and then the battery near the signal house fired a cannon shot, and threw four bombs into the fort ; upon which, M. de Monty immediately marched against Strugen
and

fered very severely; and in a little time most of the principal works in the fortifications were ruined; under

and Argyle, and successively Messrs. de Briqueville and de Sades, advanced to the attack of Kane, and the Queen's redoubt. These attacks were furious, and the defence as brave. The besieged maintained their ground for a long while, and the firing on both sides did great execution; but at length fort Strugen was taken by assault; and Argyle and the Queen's redoubt by scalade. Here the english sustained a great loss; for Mr. Jefferies, lieutenant colonel of the regiment of Effingham, who was coming to their assistance, between Strugen and Argyle, with 100 men, arrived too late, the french being masters of the forts; and whilst he attempted to retire, was taken prisoner with 15 men. Mr. Jefferies was the principal acting man in the garrison.

These three forts being taken, with several pieces of cannon and mortars, the french made instantly a lodgement in that part, which was the principal attack; mean while the other attacks were carrying on with vigour. The prince de Beauveau, having at the same time marched with his brigades against the Western and Caroline lunettes; he took possession of the covert way, and nailed up 12 pieces of cannon there; but as Kane's lunette was not taken, he could not make a lodgement here, but contented himself with cutting down the pallisadoes, destroying the gun carriages, and maintaining for some time this attack, in order to favour the principal, which was making with great bravery.

The diversion caused by all these firings, and the combination of all these various attacks gave that on the left time to ensure success; and by break of day, the french being totally masters of the Queen's redoubt, and the forts Strugen, and Argyle, they posted 400 men in the former, and 200 in the latter. M. de Richelieu, M. de Maillebois, M. du Mesnil, and the prince de Wirtemberg, were all this time, as they had concerted, in the center of the attacks on the left. Several of the mines were sprung under the glacis of the Anstruther, the Queen's redoubt, and Kane's lunette, and likewise one under the gorge of Argyle, while a considerable party of the enemy were in it, most of whom were destroyed.

During these furious attacks, the brave governor and garrison defended themselves with all the intrepidity that was natural to englishmen. The West, and Caroline's lunettes distinguished themselves particularly: with such exalted courage, and exerted bravery did this fatigued part of the garrison maintain their ground, against unequal numbers, each officer and soldier emulous of glory.

The 28th, by break of day, the besiegers beat a parley, on which immediately a cessation of arms ensued; this gave them an opportunity, which they took the advantage of, to secure the lodgements

der these disadvantages, it was amazing to find the brave and vigorous defence made by the english garrison; so that, although the french batteries began to play on the 5th of may, yet we find that the intrepidity of the brave general Blakeney, and the courageous garrison, the french were not able to make themselves masters of it before the 28th of june, on which day the garrison surrendered on honourable terms.

The next day, june the 29th, early in the morning, the duke de Fronfac, son to M. de Richelieu, was dispatched by him to carry to the king at Compeigne the news of the success of the last attack against fort St. Philip's, but not the articles of capitulation, general Blakeney, not having at that time returned his answer to the alterations the marshal had made to the conditions he had proposed. M. de Fronfac was 6 days going from Minorca to Toulon, the winds having proved contrary almost the whole time. However, he came to Lyons the 7th of july, dined at the archbishop's, with the cardinal de Fenchion's, and set out immediately after for Paris, where he arrived the 9th, late in the evening, and early the 10th at Compeigne; where, after having acquainted the king with all the particulars of the surrender of fort St. Philip's, he was promoted by his majesty to the post of brigadier of his armies.

The articles of capitulation being signed, and the hostages given, M. de Richelieu entered fort St. Philip the 29th of june at noon, and found 240 pieces of cannon fit for service, besides 40 that had been either ruined or nailed up during the attack; about

ments they had made, by pouring in a considerable number of troops, into a subterranean passage, that had been opened by a shell, and which was not discovered till the day cleared up. On the cessation of arms, a capitulation took place, wherein almost all that was desired was granted, in consideration of the brave defence made by the gallant general Blakeney, and his intrepid garrison.

70 mortars, 700,000 l. of gunpowder; 12,000 cannon balls, and 15,000 bombs. The garrison consisted of 2963 men, about 2300 whereof were military. The english lost during the siege only 400 men either killed or wounded, by reason of the galleries and casemattes cut in the rock and bomb proof, in which they were sheltered. So that the garrison consisted, at the time of the french landing at Minorca, of about 800 labourers, &c. and 2600 soldiers, making four regiments, viz. Rich's, Husk's, Cornwallis's, and Effingham's; but their colonels were not there; 60 of the inferior officers were also wanting, though expected from day to day; insomuch, that the besieged were commanded by three lieut. colonels only, 23 captains, and a very few subalterns.

The 8th of july, M. de Richelieu embarked on board the Foudroyant, with some of the principal officers; and the same day the whole french fleet hoisted sail, with several transports, carrying troops and artillery, and arrived safe at Toulon the 16th; where as soon as M. de Richelieu landed, he was saluted successively by the cannon of the whole fleet, and those of the forts. Some days after, all the troops arrived at Toulon and Marseilles, except those that were left at Minorca, which consisted of 11 battallions, with a detachment of royal artillery, consisting of 100 men, and three engineers. The command of these troops was given to the count de Lannion, who was soon after made governor of the island.

The king of France, to reward the bravery shown by his troops in the siege of Minorca, made several promotions, as a reward for the service of the officers at the siege.

Such was the loss of the island of Minorca: a loss which certainly stains the annals of Britain, in an indelible manner. Had the island been conquered by the french, in spite of the united efforts of the english fleet and garrison; or had not the english possessed
a more

a more powerful naval force than the french nation, the case would have been altered; but it is with equal grief and concern, that I am obliged to own and explain (if it wants explanation) how much the political character of Britain suffered by this unfortunate loss. The ministry in England were extremely blameable in not sending a stronger squadron sooner into the Mediterranean; had a stout fleet been sent thither to cruise off Toulon, before the french fleet sailed, it would have been quite out of their power to transport an army to Minorca. For although they are able now and then to slip by a superior fleet lying before their harbour's mouth, yet, it would have been equally impossible to have effected that, and absurd to have endeavoured to do the same, when they had 300 sail of transports to convoy. As to the case and merits of Mr. Byng, they are points so very undetermined, and so much disputed, that their consideration must be deferred till I come to speak of his trial *.

General

* Abstract of all the ammunition expended in the siege of Minorca, from the 30th of april, to the 30th of june, 1756.

Shells.	Inches.	
1972	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	
1385	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	
1551	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	
5738	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	
16572	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	
1032 hand grenades.		
<hr/> Total		
28250		

	Inches.	No:
Carcasses of	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	73
Ditto of	10	41
Fireballs		86
		<hr/>
	Total	200

Round

General William Blakeney, the brave defender of St. Philip's, was born at Mount Blakeney, in the county of Limerick in Ireland, anno 1672, the feat of his ancestors. He went early into the army in the beginning of the queen's war, and was an ensign with lord Cutts at the siege of Venlo. He was long overlooked and neglected for want of friends, till at last by the duke of Richmond's good offices, he was promoted to a regiment. He afterwards served against the spaniards at Carthagen, and commanded in Stirling castle against the rebels, in the late rebellion, when they laid siege to it, and wherein his courage and conduct gained him great applause. He was a long time lieutenant governor of Minorca; and considering his great merit, and unblemished character, was always put into the most severe and disagreeable employments. On his arrival in England, after his brave defence of St. Philip's, his majesty received him in the most gracious manner; and he was soon after created a baron of the kingdom of Ireland, by the

Round shot.		Grape shot.	
Weight.	No.	Weight.	No.
32 pound	4001	32 pounds	490
24	2061	18	171
18	17600	12	19
12	6059	9	37
9	1940	6	148
6	489	4	13
4	556	3	28
	<hr/>	1½	53
Total	32706	Total	959

Double headed shot.		Pounds of powder expended.		
Weight.	No.	Barrels.	Weight.	Ounces.
32 pounds	152	3157	49	13
18	155			
12	3			
9	13			
3	9			
	<hr/>			
Total	332			

Reduced into pounds,
make
353639 pounds, and 13 ounces.

name

name and title of lord Blakeney of Mount Blakeney, in that kingdom.

I shall conclude all what I have to say on this subject, with a few hints on what Minorca might have been, had the conduct of Britain been such, in regard to that island, as might have been expected from the politics of a nation famous for their love of arts and sciences, and the improvement and cultivation of all their extensive dominions. The natives of Minorca at present, are computed at about 28,000 ; but I leave the reader to judge, how much that number would have been encreased, had the whole island and every harbour and creek in it been declared a free port, as soon as ever they fell under the subjection of England ; without any sort of duties or fees, either upon importation or exportation, nor any tax upon goods of any kind, until they came into the retailer's or consumer's hands. Even then the taxes ought to have been as moderate, and collected in as easy a manner as possible, in order to have made living in the island both cheap and convenient ; for very moderate taxes of this kind, with a land tax of two shillings in the pound in the time of peace, and four in the time of war, always fully and equally, and for that reason frequently assessed, would have probably produced as much as would have paid all the troops we should have been obliged to keep within the island in time of peace ; and perhaps would have spared a considerable sum yearly for maintaining and improving the fortifications of all those places, which could by nature have been the most easy fortified.

And as this island lies so conveniently for trade, and communication between the richest parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa, it would certainly soon have become a general magazine, and mart for the trade of all those countries, if we had at first established the civil government and laws of England, for all british subjects and foreigners, who should come to settle in, or trade to the island ; and this would have
encreased

increased considerably the number of inhabitants. For this purpose, it would have been necessary to have established a civil as well as a military governor, and to have made the former absolutely independent of the latter, unless when the island was in danger of being invaded, and martial law proclaimed with the consent of a counsel and an assembly, the former appointed by the crown, and the latter chosen by the people, with the approbation of the crown, or of some officer appointed by the crown, for such an approbation would be necessary to keep factious and seditious men out of the assembly.

Another improvement which certainly ought to have been put in execution, was the erecting more fortifications in the island than one single citadel, some of the cities, particularly Citudadella ought to have been as completely fortified as the nature of the ground would admit. The fort of St. Philip's ought not to have been so large, nor works so very extensive, for at present they require 8000 men to man them: the length of the late siege is no argument to the contrary, since the duke de Richelieu's conduct at the siege was so extremely faulty, that it was reported another marshal of France was ready to set out from Paris, to take the command from him, when the news came of its surrender. And as the ground on which Marlborough redoubt stands is very high, it ought certainly to have been included within a regular and strong fortification: for the further security of the harbour of Port Mahon, the intended fortification of cape Mola, ought to have been finished, and Philipet little redoubt very much enlarged: and for the security of the naval stores, Bloody Island should have been completely fortified all round, and filled with magazines, casemated, and bomb-proof.

With regard to the natural produce of the island, there are two necessary materials for our manufactories, which it is surprising were never yet produced

in common in the island, either by the natives, or by sending people thither for that purpose, these are cotton and silk; the planting of the cotton shrub has been tried here with success, and the Maltese produce such quantities of it, that they export 15,000 quintals of cotton wool yearly; therefore it seems certain, that it might be produced as freely at Minorca, and as the island is so much larger than Malta, we might have expected by this time to have had large quantities of cotton wool exported yearly, had we encouraged the producing of it by allowing it to be imported duty free. As to silk, it is very probable that mulberry trees would have done very well, if planted in Minorca, as great numbers grow in the countries on all sides of it; if that had been the case, it would certainly be a very fine place for breeding silk worms, as they seldom have any frost or snow, and never of any continuance; therefore the planting of such trees ought at least to have been tried, and if they had succeeded (which is extremely probable) the pains and cost which might have been expended in the attempt would very amply have been repaid us; but such was the ill-management of the english ministry from the time it came into our possession, to the moment it was taken, that not one of these schemes were ever tried. But it is now time to return to the motions of Mr. Byng's fleet.

The latter end of may commodore Broderick had been sent from England to the Mediterranean with five ships of the line to reinforce Mr. Byng's fleet; and some days after his sailing, advice having been received by way of France of that admiral's behaviour in the engagement of the 20th of may; sir Edward Hawke, with Mr. Saunders (who had been made an admiral some days before) and several captains, together with the earl of Panmure, and lord Tyrawley (appointed governor of Gibraltar, in the room of Mr. Fowke) were ordered to repair immediately to Portsmouth, there to embark on board the Antelope
man

man of war of 50 guns, and proceed to Gibraltar, where admiral Hawke had orders to take upon him the command of the fleet, together with Mr. Saunders, and send Mr. Byng and Mr. West, and some of the captains home immediately; lord Tyrawley had orders to send Mr. Fowke home at the same time, under arrest. They accordingly sailed from Portsmouth in the Antelope, on the 16th of june, and arrived at Gibraltar, the 3d of july, when sir Edward Hawke took the command of his majesty's fleet; and the Antelope sailed from Gibraltar the 9th, with Mr. Byng on board, and, arrived at Portsmouth after a short passage. Mr. West repaired immediately to London, and was received by his majesty in the most gracious manner. Mr. Byng on his arrival, was immediately put under arrest.

C H A P. VII.

Affairs in England. In North America. Council of war at Albany. Plan of operations. Major general Abercrombie takes the chief command. Gallant action under Bradstreet. Oswego taken by the french. Reflections. Affairs in the East-Indies. Nabob of Bengal takes Calcutta. Reflections.

THE loss of Minorca had thrown the nation into a flame. The clamour against the ministry was very great throughout the whole kingdom; all the corporations in England presented addresses to his majesty, petitioning in the strongest terms for a change of ministers and measures: and indeed, the general despondency which appeared in all ranks of men, from which, even the ministry themselves were not entirely free, owing to the loss of Minorca, and the dread of a french invasion, which had for some time rooted deep in the minds of the people, was not altogether without some reason; for without doubt, the nation was at this time in a very melancholy condition, for though the war had not continued long enough for her resources to be exhausted, yet the mean figure which we then made in the eyes of all Europe, was very mortifying to those englishmen, who had a true sense of their country's honour. The insults, the contemptuous usage, and the harsh acts of oppression, put upon the english in general, throughout all the Mediterranean, were they not known facts, would at present appear incredible. At this unhappy period, the glory of our name was sullied, not only in Europe, but wherever else they had to combat with the victorious french: In short, the privateers were the only victors which then belonged to us; and these were almost ballanced by the number

ber of ships taken by those of the french. The affairs of North America wore the same gloomy aspect that distinguished the appearance of its mother country in Europe.

There the french were still victorious, at least they were quite successful in their plan of operations in that country, which was by any means to secure to themselves the sole trade and navigation of all the great lakes and rivers, on the back of the english settlements; to effect this, they had already made very great advances; they had usurped all the immense tract of lands on the river Ohio, and secured it for the present by the important fortress of du Quesne; they had secured another tract by building the fort at Crown Point, and fort Cohasset; they had erected a multitude of small forts on all the passes of the lakes to awe the indians and command their trade, those of Niagara and Frontenac, were the most considerable; the frontiers of the Carolina's were awed and curbed by fort Condé, besides many other forts of less consequence singly, but of great importance all together, as they connected the chain, which commanded all the frontiers of the english settlements, from Nova Scotia to Georgia. And what added greatly to the strength and formidableness of the french in North America, was the divided state of the english colonies, whereas those of the french were all connected in one general government, under the absolute military controul of the governor general of Canada. It was under these great and manifest disadvantages, that the new year, 1756, was opened in North America.

General Shirley still continued commander in chief. I left him at New York, having settled with the grand council held there, the plan of operations, which the reader may remember in my 4th chapter; he set out for Albany and arrived there the 7th of may, and continuing his preparations till the 25th,

called a council of war, to advise on his future measures, and he took their opinions in every article, few of which were of importance.

He had heard some time before, that there was a design in England to supersede him; but this was uncertain, till col. Webb arrived at New York from England, bringing two letters from his majesty's principal secretaries of State, dated the 13th and 31st of march; in the latter of which, he received his majesty's orders to repair to England. On the 20th of june, major general Abercrombie arrived at New York with Otway's, and the highland regiments, from whence he went to Albany, in company with col. Webb, and the day following took upon himself the chief command of all his majesty's forces in North America. Mr. Shirley gave general Abercrombie a very particular account in writing, of the state of every part of his majesty's service under his care, with the strength of the regiments, garrisons, and works; and also gave him his sentiments and advice in regard to the expeditions which were then in agitation, against the french. One of them, as it displays a great piece of bravery, I must be more particular in mentioning. It was a very gallant action under captain Bradstreet. That officer commanding the battoes in their way to Oswego, was attacked by a party of french and indians in ambuscade; finding himself between two fires, he retired with great dexterity to a little island on the river, where, for some time, he defended himself with six men, against forty of the enemy, and obliged them to retire; being reinforced, he attacked a large body infinitely superior to his own, and gained a complete victory over them, which was owing intirely to his own admirable conduct, and the astonishing bravery of his men.

In march last the earl of Loudon had been appointed commander in chief of all his majesty's forces in
North

North America; and general Abercrombie sent over to assume the command, till his lordship's arrival, which was on the 23d of july, at New York. Mr. Shirley having arrived there the 4th, his lordship regardless of his ease, and the fatigues of a tedious voyage, rested there but three days; and on the 29th of july, reached his head quarters at Albany, when he took upon himself the command of the army.

Soon after his lordship's arrival, capt. Bradstreet dispatched intelligence, that he was informed the french were preparing to attack Oswego, having 1200 men for that purpose encamped, not far from the easternmost fort. Upon receipt of this intelligence, general Webb was ordered to hold himself in readiness to march for its defence, with the 44th regiment; and on the 12th of august, the troops embarked for that expedition, at Albany.

In the mean time, lieutenant colonel Mercer, commanding officer at Oswego, received repeated intelligence, that the enemy had some place or camp to the eastward of Oswego, about 30 miles from it; and particularly on the 6th of august, that there was a large encampment of french and indians about 12 miles to the eastward of that fort; on these intelligences, Mr. Mercer dispatched an express boat to the commanding officer upon the lake, who was then out upon a cruise to the westward, with a brigantine and two sloops; letting him know that he intended next day to send 400 men in whale boats to visit the enemy, and desiring him to keep to the eastward as much as he could, in order to cover the men in the boats, and hinder the enemy from approaching nearer; but by some strange neglect, or some other private reason, instead of complying therewith, they returned next day to Oswego, and in endeavouring to enter the harbour, the brigantine was driven by a gale of wind upon rocky ground, where she lay beating about 18 hours, and was afterwards

wards forced to heave down, in order to have a false keel.

Monsieur Montcalm, the french general, having intelligence given him of the situation of the english vessels, that the brigantine was stranded, and the other two returned into harbour, took the opportunity of transporting and landing his artillery and troops in boats, within a mile and half of fort Ontario; which, as a french officer declared after Oswego was taken, he could not have done, had our vessels been out to the eastward.

Their artillery, for drawing which they transported 35 horses, consisted of about 32 pieces of cannon, from 12 to 24 pounders, several large brass mortars and hoyets (among which was the artillery taken from general Braddock at Monongahela) and were all brought in battoes from Portland Point, as they could not have been transported by land from thence, on account of the great number of swamps, drowned lands, and creeks in the way; their forces consisted of about 1800 regular troops, 2500 canadians, and 500 indians. The french troops began to fire upon Oswego on the 11th of august, which was returned with small arms, and eight cannon from the fort, and shells from the other side the river.

In short, the force of the french amounting to upwards of 3000 men, after a few days defence, the garrison was obliged to surrender; but not before their governor col. Mercer was killed by a cannon ball.

During the whole siege, the soldiers behaved with a remarkable resolution and intrepidity against the enemy, exerting themselves in the defence of the place in every part of duty; and it was with great reluctance, that they were persuaded by their officers to lay down their arms, after the garrison had capitulated.

Immediately

Immediately after the surrender of Oswego, the french demolished the works there, and embarked with their prisoners, provisions, artillery, and booty for fort Frontenac, in their way back to Montreal, and from thence to Quebec, where the garrison was put on board a merchant ship, which set sail directly for Portsmouth in England, and exchanged them for the same number of french prisoners.

From what I have said, concerning the siege of Oswego, the reader will perceive, that the loss of that fortress, in all probability would not have happened, if they had not brought a train of artillery against it, and that was impracticable by any other means, than by water carriage on the lake; and it appeared by the behaviour of the french vessels, and from the confession of the french officers themselves, that the english vessels fitted out upon the lake were of sufficient strength to have prevented the french from transporting their artillery, &c. by water; and consequently, if the new sloop and sloop Oswego had been in a condition to have acted upon the lake, it would have rendered it quite impracticable for the enemy to have brought their artillery to Oswego, even without the occasional assistance of the whale boats. In regard to the strength of the forts at Oswego, for resisting an army furnished with cannon, it was very insufficient; and the most particular partisans of general Shirley are forced to slur over this affair, in the most plausible manner they were able, as the arguments they use for that end, are founded too much upon the general's intentions, and expectations of the service of the indians; surely he might have placed the safety of so important a post upon stronger foundations, especially, as he had all along made Oswego one of the principal articles of his management, whilst he had the chief command, and spent so much time there in person, in forwarding the fortifications; and, as I have said before, had almost finished the transportation

transportation of provisions, enough for 5000 men for several months, to that fort; one would have thought that Mr. Shirley might have known, that these methods must all be tried in vain, unless he put the fort itself in such a state of defence, as to have nothing to fear from any armaments which the french could make against it.

I observed before, that general Webb was ordered to march to the relief of Oswego: he was advanced as far as the german flatts, when he received an express from the commanding officer, at the great Carrying-place, august the 17th, acquainting him, that Oswego was in the hands of the enemy. In answer to which, he received orders from general Webb to employ as large a party of men as he could spare, in obstructing the passage of the Wood-creek, for 24 miles, by felling of trees a-crofs it; and in a few days the general arrived there himself, and immediately sent out fresh parties to assist in stopping up the passage of the Wood-creek. Upon his arrival at the Carrying-place, there were about 1500 regular troops there, which, together with the seamen, battoe-men, &c. made upwards of 2500 fighting men, and sir Will. Johnson was then marching thither, with the albany militia. As general Webb was entirely ignorant of the strength of the french forces that had taken Oswego, or the rout they had marched, he encamped at the great Carrying-place, and threw up an entrenchment and breast-work round his camp, upon which he mounted 28 pieces of cannon.

But soon after, repeated intelligence being brought to the general, that the french had evacuated Oswego, and were marching home again; he ordered all the battoes he had with him, to be loaded with all the stores, cannon, ammunition, and provisions that were there, and proceed back again to Albany: and as to the forts at the Carrying-place, he ordered them to be pulled down, burnt, and destroyed. This was
of

of very bad consequence ; for the indians inhabiting the country round these forts, were no sooner left unprotected, than they wavered in their alliance with the english ; and this measure was also needless in another respect, as the french who conquered Oswego had marched back again ; whereas, general Webb stopped up the Wood-creek, and demolished the forts at the great Carrying-place, in expectation of the enemy's marching against him.

This was the last affair in which Mr. Shirley was any ways concerned, as commander in chief ; I mean the loss of Oswego. It is very difficult to pronounce decisively on the abilities of a man, from the transactions he is concerned in during one year's command ; at least this is the case with regard to general Shirley : with great justness, and the strictest impartiality one may venture to pronounce, that he was an able man, though unequal in appearance to the weight of public care, which he assumed when he undertook the chief command ; the greatest flaw in his conduct was the loss of Oswego, the preservation of which place, he had many times declared to be the chief point he had in view for a long time ; and it is natural to suppose, that when a general himself undertakes to see any post fortified, that such a fortress should at least be strong enough to resist a an enemy a reasonable time ; at least this was certainly to have been expected in regard to Oswego : but after all the objections which have been raised against his conduct, yet we should remember, that if, upon the most strict enquiry, we find he was in his command very faulty, those ministers in England, who permitted him to continue in it, were also faulty, in a like proportion, for not being acquainted with the merits of the man they promoted. It was indeed a little unusual to find a private person, who had been originally bred to the law, at the university in Cambridge, and seeking his fortune in the
manner

manner Mr. Shirley did, rise almost at once to be generalissimo in America, with the appointments and pay of the great duke of Marlborough.

Such was the bad success of his majesty's arms in America ; and in the East-Indies, affairs wore a still worse aspect: the company, by the bad management of their affairs, which is just what one would expect from the dominion of a company of traders, lost their valuable settlement at Bengal. It seems that Alvedeikam, nabob of Bengal, having died in the beginning of may 1756, his nephew, Saradjot Dollah succeeded him. This succession occasioned much discontent and trouble. Saradjot proving a most abominable tyrant, his subjects many of them conspired against him, and being discovered, took refuge in the english settlement at Calcutta. The nabob marched against that place with an army, and after making some enormous demands, laid siege to it ; governor Dr-k- pretended to be a quaker, persuaded many people to send their treasures on board a ship in the river with him to save them, which many did ; the governor then, with the officer next in command, set sail, and left the garrison, uncommanded, to take care of themselves. They, dispirited by this behaviour, soon surrendered, and were treated with the greatest cruelty ; what 200 of them suffered in the black hole is too shocking and too fresh in every one's memory to be forgot. It was expected that the governor would have been called to account for his bad behaviour at Calcutta, in leaving the garrison to take care of themselves ; but he escaped without so much as a trial ; it was said for his excuse, that he was a quaker, and consequently his conscience would not allow him to fight ; but supposing that was the case, yet there remains a query that will be difficult to be answered ; and that is, why did the next commanding officer follow so bad an example and go away with him, that

that gentleman was no quaker by religion, although he shewed himself to have the same aversion to fighting. It is equally a disgrace to the english East-India company, the appointing a quaker to be commander of a place of such importance, and the leaving it in such a defenceless condition : but such oversights and weak management is generally to be found in the affairs of a company of traders, who as such may be conspicuous, but as warriors contemptible.

C H A P. VIII.

Affairs in Europe. Court martial on lieut. gen. Fowke. Reflections. Recapitulation of the Affairs of Germany. Negotiations in Germany, from 1744 to 1756. Measures of the courts of Vienna, Petersburg, and Dresden. They prepare for war. King of Prussia's memorial to the empress queen, and her answer. Conduct of the court of Saxony. Of his prussian majesty. Reflections.

IN Europe, the affairs of the british nation wore but a gloomy aspect, proceeding from the sense of those disgraces, which that brave people met with in other parts of the world; and which could not but damp the spirits of every englishman, who had the least regard for the honour and welfare of his country. During the course of the unfortunate year, 1756, England was stripped of the valuable island of Minorca, and suffered a severe disgrace under admiral Byng. In North America, the important fortress of Oswego was conquered by the french; and a general unsuccess sullied the british arms. In the East-Indies indeed, the pirate Angria was conquered, and thereby the india company received great advantages, their trade was more secure and less interrupted; but this good fortune was soon after followed by the loss of Calcutta; so that in this country, the english were far from being successful; and then adding to these instances, the success which the french met with in their small squadrons, always escaping the superior ones of the english, we may justly conclude, with repeating how much the martial credit of the nation suffered by the events which happened from the beginning of this war, to the period I am now speaking of. But to return.

The

The reader may remember, that when Admiral Byng arrived at Gibraltar, in his way to the relief of Minorca, he, pursuant to his instructions, demanded of lieut. gen. Fouke a detachment from his garrison, equal to a battalion, to take on board his fleet and carry to reinforce the garrison of St. Philip's; and that Mr. Fowke had received his majesty's orders to comply with such demand; but he, in consequence of the weakness of his garrison, called a council of war at Gibraltar, to consider whether it was expedient, as the state of affairs then stood in the Mediterranean, to obey these commands; and that it was resolved by this council of war, not to send such a detachment on board Mr. Byng's fleet. It was for disobedience to these orders, that lieut. gen. Fowke was brought before the following board of general officers, appointed to enquire into his behaviour, and who met the 10th of august, 1760, viz.

Gen. sir Robert Rich, president,
 Gen. sir John Ligonier,
 Lieut. gen. Hawley,
 Lieut. gen. lord Cadogan,
 Lieut. gen. Guise,
 Lieut. gen. Onslow,
 Lieut. gen. Pultney,
 Lieut. gen. Huske,
 Lieut. gen. Campbell,
 Lieut. gen. lord de la Warr,
 Lieut. gen. Charles duke of Marlborough,
 Lieut. gen. Wolfe,
 Lieut. gen. Cholmondeley,
 Major gen. Lascelles,
 Major gen. Bockland,
 Major gen. lord Geo. Beauclerk.

The members of this court being sworn, and the necessary papers read, the judge advocate opened the prosecution, by accusing the general of disobedience
 to

to his majesty's orders. The nature of this court martial, did not require that many witnesses should be examined, the principal part of the proceedings was the general's defence. Having prepared it; it was read, and was as follows ;

“ That he received these three letters together, by the same hand, and must therefore take them together. That his orders were confused at least, if not contradictory : that if they were confused, then he could not know how to execute them ; and if they were contradictory, they could not be executed at all.

My orders being confused and contradictory, I called a council of war, not to deliberate whether I should obey my orders or not, but only to take their sense, what was the meaning of them.

The whole number which I had then in garrison, was but 2700 men. I had spared to Mr. Edgecomb's ships 230, which, with 40 of my men which he had left in St. Philip's, made 270. The ordinary duty of the garrison required in workmen and guards 800 men, so that I had then only 130 men more than three reliefs. If I had made the detachment of a battalion, and put it on board the fleet, I should not then have had much more than two reliefs, and this at a time, when I believed the place was in danger of being attacked, for good reasons, which I do not think myself at liberty to mention.”

When the judge advocate had finished reading the general's defence ; Mr. Fowke made a speech to the court, by which he enforced what he before insisted upon, that the orders delivered to him were confused and contradictory, and that in every sense that could be put upon them, they were discretionary, that is to say, to be complied with, or not to be complied with, according as the admiral and he should, from the then circumstances of affairs, judge to be most for his majesty's service.

The reader perceives, that the general's defence consists in the supposition of his order's being discretionary

cretionary, and these certainly were some questions, which would make one think, they either were so, or contradictory. The judge advocate being ordered to read a letter from the secretary at war to general Fowke, began it thus :

“ I wrote to you by general Stuart ; if that order “ is not complied with, then you are,” &c. &c.

Upon which the general very naturally asked, how could his lordship write, “ If that order is not complied with,” if he had thought it an absolute order, and not discretionary.

Another very odd answer was made, during the sitting of the court, which is very worthy of being remembered to the credit of its author.

General Fowke asked the secretary at war, “ But “ is it not the custom of your office, when second “ orders are intended to supersede the first, to mention that they do so ?” In reply to which, my lord Barrington said, “ I had then been but about four “ months in my office.” This answer, I think, needs no comment.

When the question came to be put, to acquit or to suspend for one year, the court was equally divided, there being eight for acquitting, and eight for suspending ; and as, in such cases the president has a casting vote, he gave it for suspending. Which sentence being reported to his majesty, he thought fit to dismiss him from his service.

Such were the resolutions of this council of war. I must make a few remarks on the evidence that appeared on the trial, which I shall do with the strictest impartiality. General Fowke received two orders from the secretary at war, the first to receive lord Robert Bertie's regiment into his garrison, and to send a detachment on board the fleet ; the second said nothing about lord Robert Bertie's regiment, but repeated the other order. On the receipt of them, he directly called a council of war, and laid before them the state of his own garrison, and

the difficulty of throwing succours into Minorca, and desired their opinion concerning the expediency of obeying his orders, whether it was for his majesty's service. The general afterwards in his defence declared, that he called this council of war, not to consider whether he should obey his orders, or not, but to know the meaning of them : if this was really the case, would it not have been natural for him to lay his orders before them, and, in one word to ask their opinions, whether they were discretionary or absolute ; but so far from this, there never passed a doubt about his orders, the point in dispute amongst them was, whether they should be obeyed, or no.

One point, indeed, spoke for him, which was the beginning of lord Barrington's letter, of the 12th of may. " I wrote you by general Stuart ; if that order was not complied with, then," this was in one sense saying, that the order by general Stuart was discretionary, for his lordship must know, or had at least great reason to think, that Mr. Fowke had received those by general Stuart. But what condemns him most of all was, his letter to the secretary at war, dated the 6th of may, wherein he tells him, " That he had, with the advice of a council of war, disobeyed his order, and that he had been induced to act so, on the consideration of the weak state of his garrison ;" but never once mentions that he had acted according to his judgment in obedience to his lordship's discretionary orders ; which he certainly would have done, had he really thought they were discretionary. If the general thought his orders to be so undoubtedly discretionary, what occasion was there to call a council of war, to know their meaning ? as he says in his defence he did. In short, it was that fatal letter to lord Barrington, which convinced the court martial of the general's disobedience ; had he not produced it, many have thought, that he would have been acquitted ; but that letter convinced

convinced them, that he himself thought his orders absolute.

But to leave the gloomy affairs of England for a moment, and turn our eyes on those of more resplendent and magnificent éclat; we must accompany the reader through the principal courts in Germany, and point out the seeming secret causes of those great events, which for some years held all Europe equally in suspense, and astonishment. As the courts of Berlin and Vienna were the principals in this famous contest, it will be necessary (for the information of the reader) to present him with a recapitulation of the general affairs of Germany, antecedent to the period I am speaking of: and more particularly of the two courts abovementioned.

Every one, who is the least versed in the history of Germany, must know, that Frederick William the II^d, elector of Brandenburg, was one of the greatest and most distinguished princes of his time, both for wisdom and courage; which were always properly employed for his own security, and the benefit of his people. He entered upon the government, in the year 1640, a time when the affairs of Germany, and his own, were in a very difficult and embarrassed situation. In the year 1687, this prince came to an amicable conclusion with the emperor Leopold, in relation to a dispute, which had long subsisted, concerning the principality of Jagerndorff in Silesia; the investiture of which had been conferred on the margraves of Brandenburg, by Lewis, king of Bohemia, about the year 1523; which duchy had afterwards been resumed by the house of Austria, under several trifling pretensions, at times when the power of the austrian family was undisturbed, and that of Brandenburg involved in the confusion of war. In compensation for this principality, the elector had the territory of Schwibus, in the northern part of Silesia yielded up to him, which the emperor afterwards

found means to obtain back from his son and successor.

Frederick III succeeded his father in the electorate of Brandenburg, in april, 1688 ; and, like several of his predecessors, entered upon the administration of affairs, at a conjuncture, which required a prince of great parts to conduct them to advantage.

This great and magnificent prince died in the 56th year of his age, and was succeeded in all his dominions by Frederick William, prince royal of Prussia, and electoral prince of Brunswick, whose reign was no less glorious, than that of his father's, shewing, in every transaction of his life, that he was in every instance careful to maintain and support his own dignity, to secure his dominions, to make himself respected by his neighbours, to keep his troops and fortresses constantly in such a posture, as might prevent his being hurt by any unforeseen accident ; and give him an opportunity, where the circumstances of things would permit it, of turning any such accident to his advantage. It was with this view, that he kept always on foot, between 80 and 100,000 regular troops well paid, and perfectly well disciplined ; at the same time that he was no less careful of his revenues, as being thoroughly sensible, that if ever a war became necessary, treasure would be to the full as needful as troops.

Charles Frederick, the present king of Prussia, and elector of Brandenburg, was born january the 24th, 1712, and consequently was in the 29th year of his age, when he mounted the throne. I shall be more particular in what relates to this great monarch, antecedent to the period I shall attempt to write the history of, as he afterwards shone forth with so distinguishing a lustre, in the late war.

The very dawning of this young monarch's government drew the attention of all Europe, and gave his neighbours very just ideas of what might be expected in the progress of it. He had been but
indifferently

indifferently treated in his father's life-time, and there consequently were many who dreaded his resentments; but he punished no body except the counsellor Eckard, whom he ordered to depart his dominions, because he had been a constant deviser of taxes, and the principal instrument of the late king, in laying burthens upon his subjects; so that in his manner of treating him, the new monarch shewed that he could avenge the wrongs done to his people, though he was at the same time patient under his own. He was no sooner possessed of the crown, than he declared himself a protector of learning; and by a letter written with his own hand, invited the famous Mr. Maupertuis from Paris, to take upon him the direction of the academy of Berlin; or, as the king himself elegantly expressed it, to graft the slips of true science on the wild stocks in the north*.

This young monarch, in the disputes he had concerning the barony of Herftall, and principality of Neufchatel, with the bishop of Liege, and the duke of Chevreuse, manifested to his neighbours, the firmness and vigour of his government. These however, were but as preludes to the great stroke of all, by which his majesty added a great part of the rich and fruitful country of Silesia to his dominions: which, as it has been considered as the occasion of the general war of 1741, and bore a considerable share in that of which I am giving the history; the reader will naturally expect, that we should be a little more particular in the account of this singular transaction.

I have already shown, that the house of Brandenburg had a very fair title to the principality of Jagerndorf, and other territories in that country, which

* Vide Present State of Europe, from which ingenious work I have taken great part of this account of the king of Prussia, preceding the war.

the emperor, notwithstanding united to the kingdom of Bohemia; but as the elector still kept up his claim, and the house of Austria had great need of his assistance, it was found necessary to give him some satisfaction; and accordingly a treaty was set on foot at Berlin, in 1686, whereby it was stipulated, that the elector should renounce all the pretensions of his house, to the principalities of Jagerndorf, Lignitz, Brieg and Wohau, upon condition that the emperor should yield to the elector, the territory of Schwibus. The baron de Frytag, who managed this negotiation for the court of Vienna, with the elector Frederick II, set on foot at the same time another clandestine treaty with the electoral prince Frederick, who was afterwards Frederick III, elector of Brandenburg, though he is generally called Frederick I, because he was the first king of Prussia.

The nature of this secret negotiation was very dark; for there were some family disputes, in which the emperor threatened to take part against the prince, if, at the same time his father subscribed the treaty abovementioned, he did not subscribe an obligation to give up, as soon as it should be in his power the territory of Schwibus, for a small sum of money. Accordingly, when he became elector of Brandenburg, the money was offered, and the territory demanded; but all the counsellors of the new elector advised him not to part with it, as he had been compelled to make this agreement, which, in its own nature therefore was void; but the emperor Leopold insisting upon it, and threatening to use force, he yielded up the territory; but refused to confirm the renunciation made by his father, of his former right.

Thus the reader sees, in a few words, the nature of the king of Prussia's claim; he represented both Frederick II, and Frederick III, consequently the rights of both were in him; and, as the house of Austria had taken away the equivalent, he conceived he had

had a just right to the territories formerly in the possession of his family, viz. the principality of Jagerndorf, and other countries, of which he resolved immediately to take possession. He had two reasons for acting in this manner, without any previous declarations made to the court of Vienna, the first was, that the male line of the house of Austria being extinct, and the power of that family thereby weakened, he thought this a favourable opportunity of doing himself justice; and that he should be wanting to himself and his posterity, or successors, if he neglected it. His second, that the elector of Bavaria and the king of Spain forming pretensions upon the emperor's succession, he was desirous of reconciling his view of doing himself justice, to the inclination he had of assisting Mary Theresa queen of Hungary, in maintaining her rights to her father's dominions, agreeable to the pragmatic sanction.

At the same time therefore, that he ordered his troops to march into Silesia, which was in december, 1740, he declared to the court of Vienna, that notwithstanding this step, he was disposed to promote the election of the duke of Lorraine to the imperial dignity; that he was willing to advance the queen of Hungary two millions of florins; and that he was ready to employ all his forces in defending her dominions, against all her competitors. But these propositions were absolutely rejected, upon which a war ensued. It is to be observed, that in this article I am stating the claims, pretensions, and measures of his prussian majesty, as matters of fact; and am very far from taking upon me to decide, whether the former were well or ill founded, and consequently whether the latter were right or wrong; but thus much, I think, I may be allowed to say, that if the court of Vienna had accepted of this proposal, the war in Germany had been prevented, and the empress queen had not yielded more to the king of Prussia, than she was obliged to do afterwards, after all the

blood, and treasure spent on both sides in this fatal quarrel.

His prussian majesty carried his point in the first instance; that is to say, he made himself master of Silesia, without much opposition; and the austrians having brought a great army into the field, under the command of the field marshal count Nieuperg; in the beginning of the next spring, his prussian majesty gave that army battle, the 10th of april, 1741, at Molwitz, in which, though with great effusion of blood, he gained the victory. In may, 1742, he fought the famous battle of Czaflau, in which he also claimed the victory; but both parties being now weary of the war, a treaty of peace was negotiated between his majesty on one part, and the queen of Hungary on the other, which was concluded and signed june the 11th, at Breslau in Silesia; by which the greatest part of that duchy, and the whole country of Glatz were yielded to his majesty.

But this valuable cession did not hinder him from entering into the league of Frankfort, in support of the emperor Charles VII, in consequence of which, he invaded Bohemia, and took the city of Prague, in june, 1744, won the uncontested victory of Friedburg in june, 1745, and that of Stadentz in the september following. Yet, the austrians still persisting to continue the war, presuming on the diversion to be made by a great body of russian auxiliaries, which it was supposed would have marched through Poland into his territories. But his prussian majesty took advantage of the season, and while his enemies were pleasing themselves, with the hopes of invading and ruining his country, the old prince of Anhalt Dessau, with a prussian army entered their's. The king of Poland was obliged to abandon his hereditary dominions, and to retire to the frontiers of Bohemia for safety. Leipstick opened her gates to the conqueror, and though a numerous army of saxons and austrians interposed, to preserve Dresden, yet, december the
4th,

4th, 1745, they were totally defeated by the prince of Anhalt Dessau, with half their number of prussian troops.

The king entered Dresden in triumph, and having overcome all his enemies, on the 14th of the same month, overcame his provocation and resentment; and in the full warmth of victory, gave them a fair and equitable peace. By which, Silesia was again solemnly yielded to him; the saxons gave him one million of crowns for the expence of the war; his majesty acknowledged the emperor, guarantied the dominions of the empress queen, and included his ally, the elector Palatine, in the same treaty, which was negotiated under the mediation of his britannic majesty, and the conclusion of which, once more settled the tranquility of Germany.

I now come to the negotiations, which gave rise more immediately to the war, of which I am giving an account; but the more clearly to do this, it is necessary to look back, a little before the peace of Dresden, which I have just mentioned. I shall here acquaint the reader, that most of the facts mentioned in my account of that series of projects, conspiracies, treachery of the courts of Vienna, and Dresden, is selected from the authentic pieces published by his majesty of Prussia, when he possessed himself of Dresden.

To come at the source of all these dark negotiations, which afterwards threw the greatest part of Europe into a flame, we must look back as far as the war that preceded the peace of Dresden. The fond hopes that the two courts of Austria and Saxony had conceived, upon the success of the campaign, in 1744, gave occasion to a treaty of eventual partition, which they concluded the 18th of may, 1745, agreeably to which, the court of Vienna was to have the duchy of Silesia, and the county of Glatz; and the king of Poland, elector of Saxony, the duchies of Magdeburg, and Crossen, the circles of Zullichow, and

and Schwibus, together with the prussian part of Lusatia; or only part of those provinces, in proportion to their conquests.

Soon after the peace of Dresden, which was signed the 25th of december, 1745, there was no further room for a treaty of so extraordinary a nature, as that of an eventual partition, with regard to a power, with whom the two contracting parties lived in peace; but yet the court of Vienna made no scruple to propose to the court of Saxony, a new treaty of alliance, in which they should likewise renew the treaty of eventual partition, of the 18th of may, 1745.

The court of Saxony thought it necessary, in the first place, to give a greater consistency to their plan, by grounding it upon an alliance between the courts of Russia and Vienna. These two powers did in fact conclude a defensive alliance at Petersburg, the 22d of may, 1746. But it is easy to perceive, that the body or ostensible part of this treaty was drawn up merely with a view, to conceal the six secret articles from the knowledge of the public; the fourth of which is levelled singly against Prussia, according to the counterpart of it, found by his prussian majesty among the other state papers, in the cabinet at Dresden.

In this article, the empress queen of Hungary and Bohemia, sets out with a protestation, that she will religiously observe the treaty of Dresden; but she says a little lower, " If the king of Prussia should
 " be the first to depart from this peace, by attacking
 " either her majesty, the empress queen of Hungary
 " and Bohemia, or her majesty the empress of Russia,
 " or even the republic of Poland, in all which cases,
 " the rights of her majesty, the empress queen to
 " Silesia, and the county of Glatz, would again take
 " place, and recover their full effect; the two contracting parties shall mutually assist each other
 " with a body of 60,000 men, to reconquer Silesia,
 " &c."

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The reader will at once perceive the unjust tendency of this article; and these were the titles, by which the court of Vienna proposed to avail itself of, for the recovery of Silesia. Every war that could arise between the king of Prussia and Russia, or the republic of Poland, is to be looked upon as a manifest infraction of the peace of Dresden, and a revival of the rights of the house of Austria to Silesia; though neither Russia nor the republic of Poland were at all concerned in the treaty of Dresden; and though the latter, with which Prussia otherwise lived in the most intimate friendship, was not then even in alliance with the court of Vienna. From this it seems very manifest, that the 4th secret article of the treaty of Petersburg, is so far from being a defensive alliance, that it contains a plan of an offensive alliance, tending to wrest Silesia from the king of Prussia.

From this article it seems obvious, that the court of Vienna had prepared three pretences for the recovery of Silesia; and by comparing it with her conduct from that time, it is very visible that she thought to attain her end, either by provoking the king of Prussia to commence a war against her, or by kindling one between his majesty and Russia or Poland, by her secret intrigues or machinations; considering which, it is not a matter of any wonder, that this treaty of Petersburg should have been the hinge upon which all the austrian politics have turned, from the peace of Dresden to this time; and that the negotiations of the court of Vienna have been principally directed to strengthen this alliance, by the accession of other powers.

The court of Saxony was the first that was invited to this accession, in the beginning of the year, 1746. They eagerly accepted the invitation, as soon as made; furnished their ministers at Petersburg, count de Vicedom, and the sieur Pezold, with the necessary full powers for that purpose; and ordered them to declare,

declare, that their court was not only ready to accede to the treaty itself ; but also to the secret article against Prussia : and also, that if, upon any fresh attack from the king of Prussia, the empress queen should, by their assistance, happen not only to reconquer Silesia, and the county of Glatz, but also to reduce him within narrower bounds ; the king of Poland, as elector of Saxony, would stand to the partition stipulated between his polish majesty and the empress queen, by the convention signed at Leipstick, the 18th of may, 1745. Count Lofs, the saxon minister at Vienna, was charged, at the same time, to open a private negotiation, for settling an eventual partition of the conquests, which should be made on Prussia, by laying down, as the basis of it, the partition treaty of Leipstick, of the 18th of may, 1745.

Throughout this unaccountable negotiation, it was affectedly supposed, that the king of Prussia would be the aggressor against the court of Vienna. But what right could the king of Poland draw from thence, to make conquests upon the king of Prussia ? Or, if his polish majesty, in the quality of an auxiliary, would also become a belligerent party ; it could not be taken amiss, that his prussian majesty should treat him accordingly, and regulate his conduct by that of the court of Saxony. This is a truth that was acknowledged, even by the king of Poland's own privy council ; for being consulted upon their master's accession to the treaty of Petersburg, they were of opinion, that the 4th secret article went beyond common rules ; and that his prussian majesty might look upon the accession to it as a violation of the peace of Dresden.

Count Brühl, prime minister to the king of Poland, being, without doubt, thoroughly convinced himself of this truth, did all in his power to conceal the existence of the secret articles of the treaty of Petersburg. For, at the time that he was eagerly negotiating in Russia, upon his court's accession to it, and to its secret

cret articles, he caused a solemn declaration to be made at Paris, " That the treaty of Petersburg, to which " his polish majesty had been invited to accede, did " not contain any thing more than what was in the " german copy," as appears from the count de Brühl's letter to count Lofs of the 18th of june, 1747; and by a memorial, which count Lofs delivered in consequence of it.

It is true, that the court of Saxony did yet defer, from one time to another, their acceding in form to the treaty of Petersburg; but they did not fail to let their allies know, again, and again, that they were ready to accede to it, without restriction, as soon as it could be done without too evident risk, and their share of the advantages to be gained should be secured to them. This principal is clearly expressed, in the instructions given the 19th of february, 1750, to general d'Arnim, when he was going to Petersburg, as minister from Saxony. This court being invited afresh, in the year, 1751, to accede to the treaty of Petersburg, declared its readiness to do it, in a memorial delivered to the russian minister at Dresden, and even sent full powers, and other necessary papers for that purpose, to the sieur Funck, their minister at Petersburg; but required at the same time, that the king of England, as elector of Hanover, should previously accede to the secret articles of the treaty of Petersburg;—And as his britannic majesty would never be concerned in this mystery of iniquity, count Brühl found himself obliged to wait the issue of the project, which had been formed, to make another alliance, of so innocent a nature as to be producible; the courts of Vienna and Saxony thought it necessary to put on these outward appearances of moderation, that they might not wound the delicacy of such of their allies, as were staggered at the secret views of the alliance of Petersburg; but for their part, they never lost sight of their darling plan, to divide the spoils of the king of Prussia beforehand, in keeping constantly

constantly to the fourth article of that treaty as their basis.

The reader will clearly perceive, from all the proofs that have now been produced, that the court of Saxony, without having acceded to the treaty of Petersburg, in form, was not less an accomplice in the dangerous designs, which the court of Vienna had grounded upon this treaty; and that, having been dispensed with by their allies, from a formal concurrence, they had only waited for the moment when they might, without running too great a risk, concur in effect, and share the spoils of their neighbour.

In expectation of this period, the austrian and saxon ministers laboured in concert, and underhand, with the more ardour to prepare the means of bringing the case of the secret alliance of Petersburg to exist. In this treaty it was laid down as a principle, that any war whatever between the king of Prussia and Russia, would authorise the empress queen to retake Silesia. There was nothing more, then, to be done, but to raise such a war. In order to bring this about, no means were found more proper, than to embroil the king of Prussia irreconcilably with her majesty, the empress of Russia, and to provoke that princess, by all sorts of false insinuations, impostures, and the most atrocious calumnies, in laying to the king of Prussia's charge, all sorts of designs against Russia, and even the empress's own person; and then upon Poland with regard to Sweden.

The instructions which the court of Saxony gave, in 1750, to general d'Arnim, when he was going to Petersburg, as their minister plenipotentiary, contains one express article, by which he is charged to keep up dexterously the distrust and jealousy of Russia with regard to Prussia, and to applaud every arrangement that might be taken against the latter. But no body executed these orders better than the sieur de Funck, the saxon minister at Petersburg, who was the life and soul of the whole party. This minister never let an opportunity

opportunity escape him, of insinuating, that the king of Prussia was forming designs upon Courland, Polish Prussia, and the city of Dantzick; that the courts of France, Prussia, and Sweden, were hatching vast projects, in case of a vacancy of the throne of Poland; and numberless other falsities of the same kind; which his prussian majesty has sufficiently contradicted by his subsequent conduct, which he has followed to the republic of Poland, and by the caution he has used never to intrude himself into the domestic affairs of Poland and Courland, notwithstanding the example other powers had set him.

It would be tedious to mention all the insinuations of this nature, which occur in the correspondence of the saxon ministers. But more particularly in their dispatches of the 6th of december, 1753; 6th and 13th of february; 28th of july, and 1st of december, 1754; wherein, among other insinuations, are mentioned, the commercial arrangements, the erection of mints, and of armaments in Prussia; and in one of the dispatches is said, that the king of Prussia's views of aggrandisement upon polish Prussia, and his project to ruin the commerce of Dantzick, were well known. These ministers even gave out in a private manner, that France and Prussia had been busied a long time at the Ottoman Porte, in raising up a war against Russia; and that, if they succeeded therein, the king of Prussia would not fail to execute his design upon Courland. They next insinuated, that the king of Prussia had found a channel in Courland by which he came at all the secrets of the court of Russia.

By the concurrence of so many calumnies and impostures, they at length succeeded, in ensnaring the empress of Russia's good faith and equity, and in prejudicing her against the king of Prussia, to such a degree, that by the result of the assemblies of the senate of Russia, held on the 14th and 15th of may, 1753, it was laid down for a fundamental maxim of the empire, to oppose every further aggrandisement of
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that monarch, and to crush him by a superior force, as soon as a favourable opportunity should occur, of reducing the house of Brandenburg to its primitive state of mediocrity. This resolution was renewed in a great council, held in the month of october, 1755, and was extended so far, that it was resolved, " With-
 " out any farther discussion, whether that prince should
 " happen to attack any of the allies of the court of
 " Russia, or one of the allies of that court should
 " begin with him *".

In order to form an idea of the joy, which count Brühl conceived upon this resolution of the court of Russia, and how well he was disposed to bring his own to concur it; I shall produce the following passages. In the dispatch of the 11th of november, 1755. He answers the sieur Funck; that, " The
 " deliberations of the grand council are so much the
 " more glorious to Russia, in that there can be no-
 " thing more beneficial to the common cause, than
 " previously to settle the effectual means of destroy-
 " ing the overgrown power of Prussia, and the un-
 " bounded ambition of that court."

The convention of a neutrality in Germany, signed at London the 16th of january, having silenced all count Brühl's calumnies, and shaken his iniquitous system; he redoubled his efforts in Russia, in order to prevent the re-establishment of a good understanding between the king of Prussia and the court of Petersburg. In his letter of the 23d of june, 1756, he explained himself upon this subject in the following terms :

* In the same letter is the following passage, " To this end the
 " court of Russia will erect magazines for 100,000 men at Riga,
 " Mittau, Liebau, and Windau; and they have found for this
 " service a fund of two millions and a half of rubles, and another
 " annual fund of a million and an half, to maintain these arrange-
 " ments."

Extracted from a letter from the sieur Funck, to count de Brühl.
 Petersburg, october 20, 1755.

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“ A reconciliation between the courts of Berlin and
 “ Petersburg, would be the most critical and the
 “ most dangerous event that could happen. It is
 “ to be hoped, that Russia will not hearken to such
 “ odious proposals; and that the court of Vienna
 “ will be able to thwart so fatal a union.”

The court of Vienna having perfectly succeeded in this respect; and imagining, after the new connections they entered into this year, that they had caught the opportunity of recovering Silesia without obstruction; they lost no time in taking their measures accordingly, all Europe saw with surprise, the armaments the court of Russia made in the spring, both by sea and land, without any apparent object; they gave out that these preparations were made in consequence of the treaty concluded with the court of England, in 1755; but it was very plain, that this declaration was a mere pretence, since England had made no requisition for succours. Soon after this, Bohemia and Moravia were crowded with troops; magazines formed; and all the preparations made for an immediate war. The designs of the king of Prussia's enemies were vast and unbounded. The dispatches of count Fleming, which his prussian majesty afterwards published, with other important papers of the same nature, are filled with a great number of curious passages. Amongst others, he relates, that count Kayserling had received orders to spare neither pains nor money, in order to get an exact knowledge of the state of the revenues of the court of Vienna; and he assures, that this court had remitted a million of florins to Petersburg. He very often expresses his own persuasion of an established concert between the two courts of Vienna and Russia;—that the latter, in order the better to disguise the true reasons of their armaments, made them under the apparent pretence of being thereby in a condition to fulfil the engagements they had contracted with England;—And that when all the preparations should be finished,

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they were to fall unexpectedly on the king of Prussia. This persuasion runs through all his dispatches; and it is reasonable to give credit to a minister so intelligent, so well informed, and so much in the way of being so.

Upon combining these circumstances together, viz. —That treaty of Petersburg, which authorises the the court of Vienna to recover Silesia, as soon as a war breaks out between Prussia and Russia;—The resolution solemnly taken in Russia, to attack the king of Prussia upon the first opportunity, whether he should be the aggressor or be attacked;—The armaments of the two imperial courts, at a time, when neither of them had any enemy to fear, but when the conjunctures seemed to favour the views of the court of Vienna upon Silesia;—The russian ministers formally owning, that those armaments were designed against the king;—Count Kaunitz's tacit avowal;—The pains which the russian ministers took to make out a pretence for accusing the king of Prussia, of having endeavoured to stir up a rebellion in Ukraine:—From the combination of all these circumstances, I say, there results a kind of demonstration, of a secret concert entered into against his prussian majesty.

That wise monarch could not shut his eyes against measures of such a tendency as these, which were likely to become so fatal to himself, as his majesty had been so long informed of all these particulars, from good quarters. The immense preparations of the court of Vienna, at least obliged him to order M. Klinggräfe, his plenipotentiary minister at the imperial court, to demand of the empress queen, whether all those great preparations of war, which were making on the frontiers of Silesia, were designed against the king, or what were the intentions of her imperial majesty? To this equitable demand, the empress queen answered in express terms, “ That in the present juncture, she had found it necessary to make
“ armaments,

“ armaments, as well for her own defence, as for that
 “ of her allies, and which did not tend to the preju-
 “ dice of any body.”

So vague an answer at so critical a time, required a more precise explanation. Wherefore M. Klinggrafe received fresh orders, and represented to the empress, that after the king, his master, had dissembled as long as he thought consistent with his safety and glory, the bad designs which were imputed to the empress, would not suffer him longer to disguise any thing; that he had orders to inform her, that the king was acquainted with the offensive projects, which the two courts had formed at Petersburg; that he knew, they had engaged to attack him together unexpectedly; the empress queen with 80,000, and the empress of russia with 120,000 men; that this design, which was to have been put in execution in the spring of this year, was deferred till next summer, on account of the russian troops wanting recruits; their fleet mariners; and Livonia, corn to support them; that the king made the empress arbiter of peace or war; that if she desired peace, he required of her a clear and formal declaration, consisting of a positive assurance, that she had no intention to attack the king either this year or the next; but that he should look on any ambiguous answer as a declaration of war; and that he called heaven to witness, that the empress alone would be guilty of the innocent blood that should be spilt, and of the unhappy consequences of war.

To so just and reasonable a demand was given an answer still more haughty, and less satisfactory than the former, the purport whereof will be sufficient to convince the public of the ill intentions of the court of Vienna.

This answer conveys, in so many words,—“ That
 “ his majesty the king of Prussia had already been
 “ employed for some time, in all kinds of the most
 “ considerable preparations for war, and the most

“ disquieting, with regard to the public tranquillity;
 “ when on the 26th of last month, that prince had
 “ thought fit to order explanations to be demanded
 “ of her majesty, the empress queen, upon the mili-
 “ tary dispositions that were making in her domi-
 “ nions, and which had not been resolved upon, till
 “ after all the preparations which his prussian majesty
 “ had already made.

“ That these were facts known to all Europe.

“ That her majesty the empress queen, might there-
 “ fore have declined giving explanations upon ob-
 “ jects which did not require them; that however she
 “ had been pleased to do it, and to declare with her
 “ own mouth to M. Klinggrafe, in the audience she
 “ granted him on the 26th of july,

“ That the critical state of public affairs made her
 “ look upon the measures which she was taking, as
 “ necessary for her safety, and that of her allies; and
 “ that in other respects they did not tend to the pre-
 “ judice of any one.

“ That her majesty the empress queen had un-
 “ doubtedly a right to form what judgments she
 “ pleased on the circumstances of the times; and that
 “ it belonged likewise to none but herself to estimate
 “ her dangers,

“ That besides her declaration was so clear, that
 “ she never could have imagined it could be thought
 “ otherwise.

“ That being accustomed to receive as well as to
 “ practise, the attentions that sovereigns owe to each
 “ other, she could not hear, without astonishment
 “ and the justest sensibility, the contents of the me-
 “ morial presented by M. Klinggrafe the 20th in-
 “ stant, an account of which had been laid before
 “ her.

“ That this memorial was such, both as to the
 “ matter, and the expressions, that her majesty the
 “ empress queen, would find herself under a necessity
 “ of transgressing the bounds of that moderation,

“ which

“ which she had prescribed to herself, were she to answer the whole of its contents.”

But yet in answer to it, she was pleased that M. Klinggrafe should be further acquainted,

“ That the informations which had been given to his prussian majesty, of an offensive alliance, against him, between her majesty the empress queen, and her majesty the empress of Russia ; as also, all the circumstances and pretended stipulations of the said alliance, were absolutely false and invented ; and that no such treaty against his prussian majesty did exist, or ever had existed.

“ That this declaration would enable all Europe to judge of what weight and quality the dreadful events are, which M. Klinggrafe’s memorial announces ; and let them see, that, in all events, they can never be imputed to her majesty the empress queen.”

Such was the answer of the court of Vienna, to the king of Prussia, as incongruous as it was insufficient ; and as to the matters of fact, which relate to his prussian majesty’s measures, nothing is so far from truth as what the empress queen advances. Those facts which that court would have to be looked upon, as known to all Europe, are so different from what it declares them to be, that it will be necessary, for the reader’s instruction, to set that affair in a clear light. Upon the russian armament in the month of june, the king of Prussia caused four regiments to pass out of his electorate into Pomerania ; and gave orders that his fortresses should be put into a state of defence ; this, and a few other very trifling movements is what gave so great umbrage to the court of Vienna, that an army of above 80,000 men was ordered to assemble in Bohemia and Moravia. If the empress had detached troops out of Bohemia into Tuscany, would the king of Prussia have had room for apprehensions for Silesia, and for assembling a numerous army there ? From this it is plain, that the march of the four re-

giments to Pomerania, only served the court of Vienna as a pretext to palliate her ill intentions.

On his prussian majesty's hearing of the great military preparations carrying on in Bohemia, he ordered three regiments of foot, which had been in quarters in Westphalia, towards Halberstadt; but did not send a single regiment into Silesia; the troops remained quiet in their garrisons, without even horses, and the other necessaries for an army which is to encamp, or which has designs of invasion. During this time the court of Vienna continuing, on one hand, to hold the language of peace, and, on the other, to take the most serious measures for war; not content with these demonstrations, caused another camp to be marked out, near a town, named Hotzenplotz, situated on a spot, belonging indeed to them, but which lies directly between the fortresses of Neisse and Cosel; and prepared a great army in Bohemia to occupy the camp of Jaromers, within four miles of Silesia. These motions of the court of Vienna obliged the king of Prussia to consider his own safety, especially, as it was reasonable to suspect the designs of that court, who he knew was not altogether very well intentioned towards him: wherefore he thought it, high time to make the dispositions which his safety and dignity required; he gave orders for his army to provide themselves with horses, and to be in readiness to march.

Had his prussian majesty formed any design in prejudice to the empress queen, every one who is at all acquainted with the formidable power of that monarch, must be sensible, that he would have had it in his power to execute them many months before the time in question, and not having staid for her assembling such formidable forces for her defence. But that monarch was negotiating whilst his enemies were arming. Such is the manifest weakness of the principal foundation, whereon all the arguments of the austrian court, are founded.

But

But this is not the only passage of the empress queen's answer that shows such a formed design of equivocating in her negotiations,—she mentions her so clear declaration to M. Klinggrafe. This declaration, though called so clear, is certainly on the whole, unintelligible, who are the allies of the empress, that were threatened with war? Was it the court of France? Or that of Russia? One must be strangely blinded, to attribute to his prussian majesty a design of attacking either of these two courts, and such an enterprize, would surely require somewhat more than four regiments being sent into Pomerania. The court of Vienna, in this memorial, say, they did not intend to attack any body; might not they as easily have said, that they would not attack the king of Prussia by name?

But the article in this memorial, on which the court of Vienna insisted most, in her answer, was, her alliance with Russia, the stipulations of which, as they said, were absolutely false and invented. To be sure it was very easy for the austrian ministers to deny this convention; but besides the facts which were published about it, there were circumstances which seemed sufficiently to indicate, at least a concert. In the beginning of june, the russian troops approached the frontiers of Prussia. An army of 70,000 men was formed in Livonia, at the same time that they were preparing at Vienna to assemble a strong army in Bohemia, which was to appear there under the name of an army of observation. These instances, besides many more that might be produced, was it necessary, are sufficient to show in the clearest light, the designs of the court of Vienna.

In short, it plainly appears, that count Kaunitz proposed to shut the door against all means of explaining and conciliating matters; and, at the same time, to pursue the preparations of his dangerous designs, in the expectation that the king of Prussia, would be so far provoked, as to take some step,

which might serve to make him pass for the aggressor.

The conduct of the court of Dresden squared exactly with that of Vienna; under the feigned character of a neutral power, count Brühl resolved, that his country should be equally forward with his allies, in their designs against his prussian majesty. It is easy to judge of this, by the counsel, which count Fleming gives count Brühl, in his dispatch of the 14th of july. "To grant the passage to the prussian troops; and afterwards to take such measures as should be most proper."

By a letter from count Fleming of the 18th of august, the empress queen explained herself to that minister in the following terms:

"That she required nothing for the present, from the king of Poland, as she was very sensible of his ticklish situation; that however, she hoped he would, in the mean while, put himself in a good posture, in order to be prepared at all events; and that, in case any breach should happen between her majesty and the king of Prussia, she would, in time, not be averse to concur, in case of need, in the necessary measures for their mutual security."

But not to detain the reader longer than is necessary, on producing such a concatenation of facts, to prove that his prussian majesty was not the aggressor in those troubles that ensued this train of dark and secret negotiations; it evidently appears, that the saxon court had a share in all the dangerous designs which were formed against that monarch;—their ministers were the authors, and chief promoters of them;—and though they did not formally accede to the treaty of Petersburg, they had however agreed with their allies to suspend their concurrence therein, till such time only, as the king's forces should be weakened and divided, and they might pull off the mask without danger.

The king of Poland had adopted as a principle, that any war, between the king of Prussia and one
of

of his polish majesty's allies, furnished him with a title to make conquests upon Prussia. And it was in consequence of this principle, that he thought he could, in time of peace, make a partition of the dominions of his neighbour.

Count Brühl entered very eagerly into the plot with the court of Vienna, by the injurious reports he undertook to propagate :—and I think I have made it appear very clearly, that there was a secret concert existing between the courts of Vienna and Saxony; in consequence of which, the latter did intend to let the king's army pass, in order to act afterwards, according to events, either in joining his enemies, or in making a diversion in his dominions, unprovided with troops.

Such were the designs of the secret enemies of his majesty the king of Prussia; and in such a cause, let any man put himself in that monarch's place, would he not have drawn upon himself an everlasting reproach, in the opinion of all equitable and impartial judges; would he not have rendered himself accountable to all his posterity; if he had not made use of every expedient, that divine and human laws had put in his power, to prevent, in good time, those designs, that tended to deprive him of the greatest part of his dominions, and to plunge him into absolute destruction.

For an instance of the bad designs of Saxony, we need but consider the warlike preparations made in that country, at the same time that her majesty the empress queen was doing the same in Bohemia and Moravia; large magazines were every where formed, and the king of Poland resolved to put himself at the head of his army, and post himself in the most advantageous manner, for facilitating his junction with the austrian army in Bohemia: an immense road was cut through the mountains of Bohemia, and marked at certain distances with posts bearing this remarkable inscription THE MILITARY ROAD; all these are so many circumstances, that completely open the designs
of

of the court of Saxony to a full view. This new **MILITARY ROAD**, in particular, could never surely have been made in order to facilitate the passage of the prussian army; and those posts, which actually remain to this day, are so many speaking proofs of the concert, which had long been forming between the courts of Vienna and Saxony, and were but too strong a justification of the reasons his prussian majesty had to prevent the effects of it.

Before I proceed to trace that monarch in the measures which he thought it necessary, in this conjuncture, to take; I shall, for the reader's assistance, in recollecting precisely all that train of negociation between the courts of Vienna, Dresden, and Petersburg, just cursorily recapitulate these affairs in as short a compass as possible; and then proceed in giving an account of the military affairs in this part of the world, which drew the attention of all Europe.

In the first place, he is to remember, that the empress queen having ceded Silesia to the king of Prussia, by the treaties of Breslau and Dresden, soon began to envy that monarch the possession of so valuable a part of her former dominions. The desire of repossessing herself of that country, and of revenging herself against the king of Prussia, induced her to attempt at any rate to gratify those two favourite desires; but fearful of the power and enterprising genius of the prussian monarch, she, although superior in her forces, sought for some ally to join with her, in these ambitious designs: she cast her eyes on the elector of Saxony, king of Poland, who answered her with all possible cordiality, and similitude of notions: these two powers formed a secret concert, and invited the empress of Russia to accede to the same design; that princess was more cautious, and as she had not at that time the least glimpse of dispute with the king of Prussia, was not so easily drawn into the scheme. The courts of Vienna and Dresden finding this difficulty, contrived and propagated a thousand calumnies

calumnies, tending to depreciate that monarch, and infused intimations to the empress of Russia of many bad designs formed by Prussia against her; and in time, by this means, and by gaining over several of the empress's ministers to their party, they persuaded her to come fully into their iniquitous schemes, which concluded in the treaty of Petersburg, between the court of Vienna and Petersburg: Saxony by reason of her situation so much in the power of Prussia, was excused from formally acceding to this treaty before matters were brought to such a crisis, as she might do it without any great danger to herself. By this treaty, the empress queen was entitled to retake possession of Silesia, in case his prussian majesty should attack her, or any one of her allies, or even the republic of Poland.

The plan for the part which Saxony was to take in the war, which was inevitably to follow; was, in case Prussia demanded at any time a passage for his troops through that electorate, in his way to the dominions of the empress queen, in such case to grant that demand; and, as soon as his prussian majesty should have his hands full in Bohemia, or elsewhere, to march with all the forces of the electorate, into the very heart of the prussian dominions, which would then be destitute of forces for their defence. The better to ensure success in these measures, the empress of Russia made immense preparations for the subsisting an army of 120,000 men, which, by the treaty of Petersburg, were to march against Prussia. The empress queen in Bohemia and Bavaria, on the frontiers of Silesia, formed camps of 80,000 men, and the whole face of those countries wore the appearance of an approaching war. The king of Poland, elector of Saxony, on his part assembled an army, in his electorate, of 30,000 men, and formed magazines for their subsistence; and cut an immense road through the mountains into Bohemia; and called it the MILITARY ROAD.

Such

Such were the preparations and measures of his prussian majesty's enemies, when he thought it not safe to continue any longer without being certain that they were not designed against him. He accordingly ordered his minister plenipotentiary at the imperial court, to demand against whom these great preparations were making ; but receiving an equivocating answer, he again demanded a solemn promise of the empress that she would not attack him in the course of this year, or the next ; but being also refused a categorical answer, and having good intelligence of all the above particulars, and the bad designs of his enemies ; he very justly thought that it would be inexcusable in him not to avert the blow, which hung in so formidable a manner over his head, by striking at the bosom of his enemy, to disable him from executing the bad designs he had formed. Such was the case of his prussian majesty ; and all Europe must allow, that he was at liberty to attack any of the three powers in confederacy against him without violating in the least degree, the laws of nations : and although, he began hostilities, yet his enemies were the aggressors * in the war,

* By aggression, is understood every act, which is diametrically opposite to the sense of a treaty of peace. An offensive league ; —the stirring up of enemies, and prompting them to make war upon another power ; —designs of invading another prince's dominions ; —a sudden irruption : —all these different circumstances are so many aggressions ; although the last, only, can be properly called an hostility.

Whoever prevents these aggressions, may commit hostilities ; but is not the aggressor. — In the succession war, when the troops of Savoy were in the french army in Lombardy, the duke of Savoy made a treaty with the emperor against France : —the french disarmed these troops, and carried the war into Piedmont : —it was therefore the duke of Savoy, who was the aggressor ; and the french, who committed the first hostilities. — The league of Cambray was an aggression : —if the Venetians had, then, prevented their enemies, they would have committed the first hostilities ; but they would not have been the aggressors.

CHAP.

C H A P. IX.

King of Prussia demands a passage for his troops through Saxony. King of Poland's answer. King of Prussia enters Saxony. Takes possession of the electorate. Prussian army blockades the saxon camp at Pirna. Motions of the austrians. Marshal Schwerin enters Bohemia. Marshal Keith marches into Bohemia. Battle of Lowoschütz. The saxon army capitulates. King of Poland sets out for Warsaw. Prussian army retreats into Saxony. And goes into winter quarters. Sad state of Saxony. Austrians go into winter quarters. Affairs in Russia. Designs of France. Preparations of the king of Prussia. Reflections. Marshal Keith.

HIS majesty the king of Prussia, clearly foreseeing that a war was inevitable, and that a passage through Saxony was absolutely necessary for his army, ordered M. de Malzahn, his minister at the court of Dresden, to demand such a passage. On the 29th of august, he accordingly demanded a private audience of the king of Poland, and made the following verbal declaration to his majesty, on the part of the king his master:

“ His majesty the king of Prussia finds himself obliged, by the behaviour of the empress queen to attack her, and to march through the territories of Saxony into Bohemia: he accordingly demands a passage through the electoral dominions of his polish majesty, declaring, that he will cause his troops to observe the strictest discipline, and take all the care of the country that the circumstances will permit. His polish majesty, and his royal family, may at the same time depend upon being in perfect safety, and of having the greatest respect paid them, on the part of his prussian majesty. As to the rest, after reflecting upon the events of the year 1744, there is no reason

reason to be surprised, that the king of Prussia should take such measures, as may prevent a return of what then happened. Moreover, he desires nothing so much as a speedy re-establishment of peace, in order to give him the happy opportunity, of restoring the king of Poland to the quiet possession of his dominions, against which he has not, in other respects, formed any dangerous designs."

M. de Malzahn added, " That the necessity which the king his master was under of acting in this manner, could only be imputed to the calamity of the times, and the behaviour of the court of Vienna."

The king of Poland, in the surprise which this declaration threw him into, answered M. de Malzahn, " That he should not have expected a requisition in the form that it had just been made to him; that being at peace with all the world, and under no engagement relative to the present object with any of the powers actually at war, or those about to enter into it, he could not conceive the end of making such a declaration; but that he should give answer upon this subject in writing, and hoped his prussian majesty, contenting himself with a quick passage, would neither forget the respect due to a sovereign, nor that which all the members of the germanic body reciprocally owe to each other."

Soon after this verbal answer, the king caused another to be delivered in writing to M. de Malzahn, which imported much the same as the other, but was more explicit.

Besides lord Stormont, the british minister, who went on the part of the king of Poland, to wait on the king of Prussia, his polish majesty likewise sent the count de Salmont, one of his ministers. His prussian majesty received them very politely, heard their proposals, and told them, " That he himself wished for nothing more than to find the king of Poland's sentiments acquiesce with his declarations: that the neutrality which his polish majesty seemed desirous

desirous to observe, was exactly what he required of him; but that in order to render this neutrality more secure, and less liable to variation, it would be proper for his polish majesty to separate his army; and send the troops he had assembled at Pirna back into their quarters; that a step of this nature would be a full proof of a neutrality not to be doubted off; and that after this he should take a pleasure, in shewing by an equal condescension, his disposition to give real marks of his friendship for his polish majesty, and concert with him what measures might be proper to be taken, according to the situation of affairs."

But to comply with these terms was not the design of his polish majesty; he had raised an army of 30,000 men for other exploits, than to march back again into their quarters. As to his prussian majesty, foreseeing that war was become inevitable, and that the king of Poland, by his actions, was resolved to continue his military preparations; at last resolved to enter Saxony, and by striking so effectual a blow, disengage his enemies from executing the formidable scheme they had projected.

This great monarch having prepared with the utmost diligence, a powerful army, found it ready for action by the end of august. His situation at this critical conjuncture was alarming; the power of the house of Austria, of itself an overmatch for him; he knew he had to cope with besides a vast army of russians, who were upon their march for Prussia; add to these, the king of Poland, at the head of 30,000 men; nor was his majesty without fears from the part which France might take, in the situation which her new ally the empress queen then was in.

But, being prepared for the worst that could happen, he resolved to begin hostilities by attacking Saxony; having first conferred the chief command in Prussia, on marshal Lehwald, an officer of the greatest courage and abilities; and that in Silesia, on marshal Schwerin, a soldier grown old in the prussian service,
and

and a particular favourite of the king's, having taught his majesty the first rudiments of the art of war; reserving to himself that of the principal army, intended to act in Saxony and Bohemia.

The saxon general had made choice of the post of Pirna, for the rendezvous of their troops, as the most convenient, either for deceiving the prussian army, in case of its advancing into Bohemia, or for receiving succours from the austrians. Upon the first motion of the prussian troops, for marching into Pomerania, or, in case of necessity, for joining marshal Lehwald, the saxons abandoned all their garrisons bordering on Brandenburg, and took post between the Moldaw and the Elbe. They afterwards returned to their quarters; and, a second time, broke up and repaired to their respective cantonments. The motive on which they acted being known, proper measures were taken; and the king of Prussia, entering Saxony on the 29th of august, marched with his troops, divided into three columns, towards Pirna. The first set out from the duchy of Magdeburg, under the command of prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, directing their route to Leipzig, Borna, Kemptz, Freyberg, Dippoldswalde, to Cotta. The second command by the king, and under him field marshal Kieth, marched through Pretsch, Torgau, Lönzsch, Wilsdruff, Dresden, and Zehist. The third commanded by the prince of Brunswick Bevern, crossing Lusatia, took its route through Elsterwerde, Bautzen, Stolpe, to Lohm. These three columns arrived the same day at the camp at Pirna, which they invested. The division commanded by the king, took possession of Dresden, and cut off all communication between that city and the saxon camp; and on the 8th his majesty took up his quarters at Wilsdruff. On the 10th, a great part of the prussian army marched in order towards the saxon camp, and the head quarters were placed at Seidlitz, not much above half a german mile distant from

from Pirna. And the same day one regiment of cuirassiers, and three of dragoons, marched through Dresden into the camp at Wilsdruff, where a body of 16000 men were still left.

The division under prince Ferdinand of Brunswic, amounting to about 15000 men, entered Leipzig on the 20th. And so impenetrable are the councils of his prussian majesty, that even prince Ferdinand; when he set out upon his march, did not know what course he was to take further than Gros-Kugel, where, upon opening his instructions, he found the king's orders to advance to Leipzig, and take possession of it.

Notice was given the same evening to the deputies of the corporation of merchants, that they were to pay all taxes and customs only to the order of his prussian majesty; the deputies waited on prince Ferdinand of Brunswic, next morning at 11 o'clock, who received them very politely, and repeated to them, that from that day, all contributions were to be paid to the order of the king of Prussia, and not to his polish majesty; and assured them that they might depend upon his friendship, protection, and care to maintain good order. The same day the prince took possession of the custom-house and excise-office; and ordered the magazines of corn and meal to be opened for the use of his troops.

Whilst his highness prince Ferdinand transacted these affairs in so resolute a manner at Leipzig, his majesty the king of Prussia did the same at Dresden. The king of Poland, on the news of the irruption of the prussians, left his capital, the city of Dresden, attended by his two sons, prince Zavier, and prince Charles, on the 3d of september, and put himself at the head of his troops, encamped at Pirna, resolving to defend himself to the last. The queen, and the rest of the royal family, remained in the city, and were treated in the most polite manner by the king of Prussia, who took possession of it the 8th. That monarch established all the offices for the execution of

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public business belonging to the prussian army, at Torgau, which was the place where contributions and duties of all kinds were paid : and as the cash and treasure of the army were kept here, 1500 peasants were set at work to throw up entrenchments round the place, to prevent its being attacked or surprised. The deputies from Leipzig were conducted hither, and detained as a security for the obedience of the regency of that city, and the payment of its duties and contributions. A prussian commissary was left to take care of these payments, but what is extraordinary, not one soldier.

I have already observed, that the three columns of the prussian army met at Pirna the same day. They were no sooner encamped round this post, than it was perceived, that notwithstanding the inferiority of the saxon army, the advantageous situation of the ground it possessed, was so great, that it was not to be attacked without considerable loss. It was therefore determined to turn the attack into a blockade, and to treat the saxon army rather in the manner of a town besieged, than like a post, which might be attacked according to the custom of war carried on in an open country.

The situation of the saxon camp, which made it almost impregnable, was as follows, viz. The plain between Pirna and Koenigstein, where the saxon camp was pitched, is a continued rock, with a declivity down to the Elbe on one side, and into a valley on the other. This declivity ends on one side of Koenigstein, from whence begins a thick forest, in which the saxons cut down trees, and barricaded themselves. On this side of Pirna is a narrow passage, where, as well as in the town itself, they made intrenchments, and raised in and about their camp, near 60 redoubts, which were well provided with a great number of cannon. But this advantageous situation did not remedy the want of water, provisions, and forage ; the saxon generals omitted nothing that might induce the

the prussians to proceed on their march for Bohemia, and leave them behind, without attacking them. But former experience had given the king of Prussia wisdom, with regard to future transactions. If, on the one hand, no direct attack was thought advisable; so, on the other, no enemy was to be left behind. Besides strictly blockading the saxons, it was also resolved to form an army of observation, to prevent any succours being sent from the austrian army. In consequence of this resolution, the prussians took possession of the posts of Leopoldshain, Marckerdorf, Hellendorf, Cotta, Zehist, Sedlitz, as far as the Elbe, where, by their bridge, they had a communication with the posts of Lohmm, Welen, Obreswaden, and Schandau. In these different places were distributed thirty-eight battalions, and thirty squadrons. Seventy-nine battalions and seventy squadrons, were destined for Bohemia, which entered by detachments, moving to Peterstal, Aufsig, and Jonsdorf. This body was commanded by marshal Keith, by whose orders general Manstein made himself master of the castle of Ketschen, taking an hundred austrians prisoners. The marshal encamped at Jonsdorf, where he staid till the end of the month.

Hitherto marshal Brown had kept close in his camp at Kolin; which was almost completely formed by the 21st of august, most of the artillery for that purpose being arrived; but the troops were not all complete then; the marshal had under him prince Piccolomini, seven lieutenant field marshals, and sixteen major generals; besides this, the austrians were then assembling troops at Ollischau. The court of Vienna drew all the forces of her imperial majesty's immense dominions, into Bohemia: all the officers in the austrian Netherlands received orders to join their regiments directly, and hold themselves in readiness to march on the first notice, and were very soon detached into Bohemia; and orders arrived at

Brussels, to raise several independent companies of 100 men each : parties of 5 or 6000 croatians were continually marching through Vienna for their camps in Bohemia and Moravia.

Marshal Schwerin, as I before observed, was appointed by his prussian majesty to command in Silesia ; that general, after passing through the county of Glatz, had advanced to Nachot, afterwards to the banks of the Mettau, and lastly to Aujet, where he routed a detachment of hussars, and dragoons, commanded by general Bucor, and took 200 prisoners. Afterwards the marshal took possession of the camp of Aujet, and foraged under the walls of Konigsgratz, where prince Piccolomini was encamped. Near Hoenmaut the prussian hussars defeated 400 austrian dragoons, and took many of them in their flight. This was all marshal Schwerin could do. The camp at Konigsgratz was situated at the conflux of the Adler into the Elbe : the enemy were entrenched, and this post in its front too difficult to be attacked.

When his prussian majesty took possession of Dresden, he sent an officer to the queen to demand the keys of the cabinets, the archives, and treasures of her husband : her majesty unwillingly complied ; and when the prussian officer received the keys of her, he requested further, that her majesty would also put him in possession of a certain casket, containing some particular papers, and described it to her : the queen denied having any knowledge of such a casket, and told the officer she knew not what he meant. Madam, replied he, (pointing to a cabinet) the casket I am ordered by my master to demand, is in that cabinet.—The queen in some confusion assured him, he was mistaken, for the cabinet contained no such papers. But the prussian officer insisted upon having it opened, and finding that the most peremptory demands would not be complied with, by her polish majesty, he broke it open himself in her presence,

presence, and took out the very casket he had demanded, and which contained all the original conventions, and letters which passed between the courts of Saxony, Vienna, and Petersburg.

His prussian majesty finding himself possessed of so invaluable a treasure, instantly published them, that all Europe might be convinced of the necessity there was for his beginning hostilities in his own defence.

Great efforts were only to be made in Saxony; the situation of the saxon camp, made it necessary for the austrians to advance to their relief, and the prussians found it necessary to keep these enemies off, as well as to continue the blockade of the saxon camp in the closest manner. The condition of the electorate was certainly at this time on the verge of destruction, the prussians had taken possession of all the towns and fortresses, and had demanded about a fortnight after their entrance, to be delivered in the space of three weeks at farthest, 1100 oxen, 2500 sheep, 200,000 measures of oats, 150,000 quintals of hay, and 20,000 trusses of straw; the value of them all was supposed to amount to 625,000 crowns.

In the mean time the empress queen, found herself obliged in honour, to relieve her ally the king of Poland; accordingly she ordered marshal Brown to disengage the saxons. His army was encamped at Budin, near the conflux of the Egra with the Elbe; and for the executing these orders, he had the choice of three ways; one by attacking and defeating marshal Keith's army, which was no easy task: the second, by marching to the left, through Belin, and Teopnitz, to enter Saxony, which laid him under the necessity of exposing his flank to the prussian army, and even of being deprived of his magazines at Budin and Welfern: the third, by sending a detachment through Leutmeritz, and proceeding to the saxons by the way of Böhmisch, Leipe and Schandau. This last measure could not produce any thing decisive; the ground in the neighbourhood of Schandau, and

Ober-Raden, being so difficult, that a small body of troops may stop an entire army. But his prussian majesty, in so critical a time, judged his presence was necessary in Bohemia. Accordingly, he left the camp at Setlitz, on the 28th of september, and the same day reached marshal Keith's camp at Jonsdorf. On the 29th, the army in Bohemia was ordered to march: the king going before with eight battalions and twenty squadrons, encamped at Jirmitz, where the scouts of the army brought advice, that marshal Brown was, the next day, to pass the Egra. His majesty now judged, that the best way was to draw near the enemy; in order to observe all their motions. On the 30th, all the troops followed the king in two columns, the one by the way of Proscobot, and the other by the way of Jirmitz. From Jirmitz he marched with his van, towards Welmina, where he arrived that evening, an hour before sunset. There he saw the austrian army, with its right wing at Lowoschutz, and its left towards the Egra. That evening the king, himself, occupied, with six battalions, a hollow, and some rising grounds, which commanded Lowoschutz, and which he resolved to make use of, the next day, in order to march out against the austrians. The army arrived, at night, at Welmina, where the king only formed his battalions behind one another, and the squadrons in the same manner, which remained all night in this position; the king himself sitting up all night, and having no other covering but his cloak, before a little fire, at the head of his troops. On the first of october, at break of day, he took with him his principal general officers, and shewed them the ground he intended to occupy with his army, viz. the infantry forming the first line, to occupy two high hills, and the bottom betwixt them; some battalions to form the second line; and the third to be composed of the whole cavalry. The ground where the prussians formed themselves in order of battle, contained only the six battalions of the van, the
ground

ground continuing to widen towards the left. The declivity of these mountains was covered with vineyards, divided into a great many inclosures, by stone walls, three feet high, as belonging to different persons. In these vineyards, marshal Browne posted his pandours to stop them, so that, as every battalion of the left entered the line, it was obliged to engage the enemy. But their fire being faint and unsteady, it confirmed his prussian majesty in his opinion, that marshal Browne was retreated, and that the pandours and bodies of cavalry seen in the plain were his rear. This opinion appeared the more plausible, from the impossibility of seeing any appearance of an army; a thick fog hiding every thing, and did not disperse till past eleven. His majesty ordered his artillery to play on the cavalry in the plain, upon which it several times altered its form. Sometimes it appeared numerous; sometimes drawn up chequer-ways; sometimes drawn up in three contiguous lines; sometimes five or six troops filed off to the left, and disappeared. After the king had found that the battalions were possessed of the hollow, in the manner he had ordered it, he thought, that the first thing to be done, was to drive back the enemy's cavalry, which stood in the front. Accordingly he ordered twenty squadrons of horse to charge them; who, having formed themselves at the foot of the eminence, where the prussian infantry was posted, charged and broke the austrian horse. But, as the austrians had placed behind their cavalry in hollow places and ditches, a great body of infantry, with several pieces of cannon, the prussian cavalry, through the briskness of their attack, found themselves exposed to the fire of this cannon and infantry: which obliged them to return and form again, under the protection of their own infantry and cannon, and this without being pursued by the austrian cavalry. It was not till now, apprehended, by his prussian majesty, that the austrians were facing him with their whole army. The king at that time

was for placing his cavalry behind in a second line; but before this order could be brought, his horse, prompted by their natural impetuosity, and a desire of distinguishing themselves, charged a second time, bore down all opposition, passed through the same flank fire, as at the first charge, pursued the enemy above 300 paces; and, in the excess of ardour, crossed a ditch 10 feet wide. Beyond this ditch, at the distance of 300 paces was another; behind which appeared the austrian infantry, drawn up in order of battle. Immediately 60 pieces of cannon played upon the prussian horse, which therefore repassed the ditch, and returned to their infantry, at the foot of the mountain, without being followed. The king then ordered his cavalry to post themselves behind the infantry. About this time, the fire on the left wing began to increase. Marshal Brown had successfully brought on 20 battalions, who, passing by Lowoschutz, lined the banks of the Elbe, to support the pandours in the vineyards; and the enemy used all possible efforts to flank the left of the prussian infantry, the king perceived the necessity of supporting it, and ordered the battalions of the first line to turn to the left; the battalions of the second line filled up the intervals, which had been occasioned by this motion; so that the cavalry formed the second line, which supported the infantry. At the same time the whole left of the infantry, marching on gradually, wheeled about, and attacked the town of Lowoschutz in flank, in spite of the prodigious fire of the enemy: the prussian grenadiers fired in through the doors and windows, and roofs of the houses, in the burning of which, the battalion of Kleist and Bornstadt chiefly distinguished themselves. In this action, though only the attack of a post, every prussian soldier of the left wing fired ninety shot. They had no more powder nor ammunition for their cannon; notwithstanding which, the regiment of Itzenblitz and Manteufel entered Lowoschutz, with their

their bayonets fixed, and drove before them nine fresh austrian battalions, which marshal Brown had just posted there. The battle concluded with a disorderly flight of the austrians. What hindered the prussian cavalry from taking advantage of it was, first, the broad ditch mentioned in describing the second gallant attack made by them; and secondly, the masterly disposition of marshal Brown, in taking all the left of his infantry, which had not been attacked, to cover his broken troops which were flying in the utmost confusion. In this order marshal Brown waited the approach of night to retreat. At an hour after midnight he began his march towards his camp at Budin, breaking down all his bridges over the Egra. The next day, the prince of Bevern was detached by the king of Prussia, with a body of 8000 men to Schirkowitz, which was on their right; and from thence he sent out parties along the Egra, to reconnoitre the passes. The austrian army amounted to 60,000 before the battle, which lasted seven hours, during which, the cannonading was incessant on both sides. The loss of the austrians was computed at about 7000 men killed or wounded; 500 taken prisoners; amongst whom was prince Lobkowitz, four pieces of cannon, and three standards. The loss of the prussians did not exceed 6 or 7000, among whom was general Ludritz, an officer of great merit and experience. The prussian army encamped on the field of battle, where it continued without molestation, foraging within cannon-shot of the austrian army.

On the 6th, his prussian majesty received advice that marshal Brown had made a detachment, in which was his own regiment; and that these troops had moved to Raudnitz, and were advancing towards Bohmisch-leipe, in their way for Saxony, and consisted of about 6000 men. Although the weakness of this detachment could cause little apprehension, his majesty thought that his army in Saxony, consisting only of thirty squadrons, might want a reinforcement of horse; especially

especially if the saxons should attempt to force the pass of the Hellendorf, where the cavalry might be usefully employed, particularly in the plains of Peterwalde. These considerations determined the king to go thither in person. Accordingly, setting out from Lowoschutz, on the 13th, with 15 squadrons of dragoons, he arrived at his other army, on the 14th at noon.

The reader may now perceive that the battle of Lowoschutz was not entirely decisive. For although his prussian majesty, in the account which he published of this campaign, pretends, that his army in Bohemia was intended merely to cover the blockade of the saxon camp; yet we may perceive that his intention, when he set out for Bohemia, was, in case he got a decisive victory, to march directly to Prague, to facilitate the conquest of all that kingdom: every impartial man, will, I believe, agree, that this monarch, had he gained such a victory as I am speaking of, would not have directly marched back to his army in Saxony; his business would in every respect have been more completely done, had he got possession of Prague and thereby been enabled to extend his winter-quarters into the very heart of Bohemia. But I would not be thought from hence to derogate from the real greatness of this victory, although disputed by the austrians, that his prussian majesty gained it; we may find by marshal Brown's inability to relieve the saxons, on which account he engaged the prussian army; and the advantage the victor's cause received from it, was very considerable; it was the first action of the war, and the soldiers looked on it as a good omen of future success. His prussian majesty in this victory found the happy effects of that exquisite discipline to which he had inured his soldiers; the fire of the prussian soldiers, as well as their artillery was so extremely heavy and unintermitting, that it was almost impossible for any troops to stand unbroken before it.

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In the mean time great changes happened in the camp at Pirna, since the 10th of october. The saxons had that day attempted to throw a bridge over the river at Wilstead. The prussians had there a redoubt, from whence a captain with 50 grenadiers fired on the saxon's boats. He took seven or eight of them, and others he sunk with their cannon; so that the design of the saxons miscarried. They now altered their design, and, seeing the difficulty of transporting their boats on the Elbe, where they had the fire of three prussian redoubts to pass, they therefore loaded their pontoons on horses, and carried them thus by land to a place near Konigstein, opposite to the village of Halbstadt. This outlet of their camp had excited the attention of the saxons, as being the most easy, on account of the succours they expected from the austrians. For the better understanding of this relation, it will be necessary to break here the thread of the narrative, in order to describe the nature of the ground, which is known to be the basis of military dispositions. The description which I before gave of the post of Pirna, has shewn its situation to be very strong; but with this defect, that it is as difficult to come out of it as to force it. According to the situation of the ground, the saxons could attempt to force a passage only by Hermsdorf and Hellendorf. This would certainly have been attended with great loss, though there was a probability of saving by this attempt a part, at least, of their men. It cannot but be thought, that they were entirely unacquainted with the situation of Halbstadt, Burgeisdorf Zeigenruck, Schandau, and with the disposition of the prussians in these posts. The prussian general Zeschwitz, with eleven battalions and fifteen squadrons, was posted between Schandau, and Wendischeferre; and opposite to him in the villages of Mitteldorf and Altendorf, encamped marshal Brown with his detachment. Zeschwitz was much stronger than Brown. The impracticable situation

ation of these rocks hindered the austrians from advancing to Buerisdorf. This could not be done without a body double their number, or filing off, two a-breast, in sight of general Leschwitz towards Alstadt. Where the saxons intended to pass, is a small plain, in the center of which stands Lilienstein, a steep mountain. On both sides of this rock, in the form of a crescent, five battalions of grenadiers guarded an impracticable barricade of felled trees. Behind them at the distance of 500 paces, two brigades of foot were placed in the defile of Buerisdorf, supported by five squadrons of dragoons; and behind this defile is Ziegenruck, a perpendicular rock, 60 feet high, and which forms a semi-circle round these difficult posts, joining the Elbe, at its two extremities. From this inconvenient place, however, it was, that on the 11th the saxons began to form their bridge. The prussian officers, instead of disturbing them, suffered them to finish it. The descent from Tirmsdorf, towards the Elbe, is tollerable practicable; but, after they had finished their bridge, the great difficulty remained of climbing up the rock, from whence they could go only by one foot-path to Alstadtel. It was on the 12th, in the evening, that they began their march. Two battalions of grenadiers, after infinite difficulty, got on the other side. On the 13th, this road was intirely destroyed by the continual rains; so that there was no possibility of getting their cannon from their entrenchments; and accordingly they left them behind. This day their cavalry, their baggage, and their rear found themselves confusedly embarrassed, one being stopped by another. The difficulty of the passage hindered the march of their troops, the van could only file off one by one, whilst the main body and the rear were obliged to remain motionless on the same place. On the 13th, very early in the morning, prince Maurice of Anhalt received the first advice of the retreat of the saxons. The prussion troops without delay, marched in
seven

seven columns. It was with great labour they climbed those rocks, during which, however, they met with no opposition. Upon gaining the height, they formed; the prussian hussars fell upon four saxon squadrons, which composed their rear-guard, and drove them to their infantry near Tirmsdorf. The prussian companies of hunters, lodging themselves in a wood, on the flank of these troops, extremely galled them with their fire. At the same time, prince Maurice ordered the foot regiment of Prussia to advance on an eminence, to the right of the saxons; and two pieces of cannon being brought to play on their rear guard, a general flight ensued. The hussars threw themselves on the baggage of the army, and plundered it; and the hunters conveyed themselves into the woods, near the Elbe; from whence they galled the rear guard in its retreat. The saxons now lost all presence of mind, and cut down their bridge, which was carried away by the current to the post of Raden, where it was stopped. The prussian army encamped on the eminence of Stuppen, its left joining to the Elbe, and the right extending along a large hollow way, terminating near Hennerdorf. Such were the situations of the prussian, austrian and saxon troops, when the king of Prussia arrived on the 14th, with his dragoons, at the camp at Struppen.

Marshal Brown had arrived on the 11th, at Lichtenfeld, near Schandau, and immediately acquainted the saxons with his arrival, letting them know, that he would stay there all the next day, but no longer; and, in the mean time, waited for the notice of a certain signal, to begin the attack on the prussian posts, which signal was not given. The saxons were in a cul de sac, or place, through which there was no passage, where it was impossible for them to act, and they laboured under unsurmountable difficulties; so that, though the king of Poland, who was at Koenigstein, was ardent, for making an attack, his generals convinced him of the utter impossibility of it.

Marshal

Marshal Brown perceiving all the danger of the situation he was then in, retreated on the 14th towards Bohemia. Whereupon, a prussian officer, with a body of hussars fell upon the rear of the austrians, consisting of 300 hussars, and 200 pandours; and, routing them, the hungarian infantry was put to the sword. This affair, which gave rise to so many debates and reproaches among the austrian and saxon generals, is very easily decided; the case was, that neither party had a sufficient knowledge of the ground which the saxons had pitched upon for their retreat, and to which alone was owing the surrender of the saxon army. The king of Poland, who was yet in the castle of Konigstein, seeing his army in such a situation, that it could not force a passage by the sword, and without all hopes of provisions or succours, permitted his troops to surrender themselves prisoners of war. Count Rutowski was appointed to draw up the capitulation*. The king of Prussia made no difficulty of restoring the colours, standards, and kettle-drums, which were carried to the king of Poland at Konigstein. According to the capitulation the saxons marched out of their camp. On the 16th, in the morning, bread was sent to the foldiers, as soon as the capitulation was agreed to. On the 17th they passed the Elbe, preceded by their general officers, at a place called Raden, where the prussians had a bridge of boats; from thence they marched into a plain in the neighbourhood, and after passing be-

* His prussian majesty's answer to the 5th article of capitulation, is conceived in those spirited terms, which the prince was so wont to use. Rutowski demanded that the life and grenadier guards should be excepted in the capitulation; to which his majesty answered, "There is no exception to be made, because it is known that the king of Poland did give orders for that part of his troops which is in the said kingdom to join the russians, and to march for this purpose to the frontiers of Silesia; and a man must be a fool to let troops go which he holds fast, to see them make head against him a second time, and to be obliged to take them prisoners again."

tween two battalions of prussian guards, they were received by two battalions of the prince of Prussia's regiment, drawn up on the right and left; they there formed a hollow square, and had the articles of war read, and the military oath administered to them. As there was but one bridge laid over the river, and the roads from the saxon camp were extremely bad; and as every regiment took the oath separately, this ceremony lasted all that day and the next. The soldiers were all armed, and most of them entered into the service of his prussian majesty, and the officers were permitted on their parole, to go to their places of residence.

The whole saxon army consisted of 16,000 men, 3000 of which were horse and dragoons. The soldiers were extremely well looking, robust young men, and had not suffered for want of provisions during the blockade of five weeks. But the cavalry was almost ruined.

On the 18th, the king of Poland set out for Warsaw. The troops of Prussia were withdrawn from all the places in this road; and the same regard shewn to his person, as crowned heads reciprocally observe towards each other, in the most profound peace. The queen of Poland, together with the royal family, continued in their capital; and had the same honours paid them from their enemies that surrounded them, as they were accustomed to receive from their own subjects.

It was expected by many, that the king of Prussia, after gaining such an accession of strength, as the saxon army, would again march into Bohemia, and face marshal Brown on a more equal footing than before. But that wise monarch, weighing the disadvantages that might accrue to his army by hazarding a winter's campaign, in a country, where the severity of the weather is generally more destructive than the most desperate battle; against the advantages that might be gained by a second victory, at a season when

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it was impossible to improve it, prudently resolved to withdraw his army into quarters of cantonment, and there to wait the motions of the enemy. Accordingly, marshal Keith was ordered to send off the baggage of his corps on the 21st of October, the horse and heavy artillery on the 22d; which was accordingly executed.

His prussian majesty left Struppen the 20th, accompanied with 10 battalions, to cover the retreat of his bohemian army, and lay that night at Peterswalde, and the next at Lenai; on the 22d, in the morning (leaving his battalions at Lenai) went to Lowoschutz, but returned that night to Lenai. On the 23d, early in the morning, the camp at Lowoschutz broke up; they formed into two columns, the first commanded by marshal Keith, the second by the prince of Prussia. Marshal Keith detached four battalions by the banks of the Elbe, to guard the right of the army, and, at the same time, to pick up the detachments placed along the river: they joined the army at Lenai. The prince of Bevern commanded the rear guard, which consisted of eight battalions, five squadrons of dragoons, and five of hussars. On the left of the rear of the army, but at some distance, was posted part of the regiment of leithen hussars, to prevent the austrian irregulars from acting; they lay that night at Lenai, the 23d, where they rested the 24th and 25th.

In the mean time, marshal Brown could not well penetrate into the designs of his prussian majesty; but thinking it probable, that he was making his dispositions for retreating, he sent a detachment of 3000 men, under general Haddick, with a design to harass the rear of the prussian army; but he found his prussian majesty had made so masterly a disposition, that it was in vain to attack him. He accordingly retired.

That monarch had occupied with his ten battalions all the high grounds about Lenai, and his army continued

tinued to retire in perfect safety, his battalions still marching on, and keeping possession of the heights. The army advanced on the 26th to Teutsch Neudorff, encamped there, and the next day to Schoenwalde, and re-entered Saxony on the 30th, where it was cantoned between Pirna and the frontier along the Elbe. General Zastrow, with his brigade, was posted at Gishübel and Gottleube, where he was attacked by the austrian pandours; but they were repulsed with loss, and pursued beyond Peterwalde; after which, disheartened by the warm reception they always met with, they no longer disturbed the advanced posts of the prussian army.

At the same time the army at Lowoschutz was quitting Bohemia, marshal Schwerin was ordered to return into Silesia. He had passed the Elbe at Jaromitz: and, after procuring all the forage possible, he marched towards Schalitz; to which place some thousands of hungarians followed him, a body of his troops attacked them, and drove them as far as Smirnitz; after which, he continued his march unmolested. On the 2d of november, he entered the county of Glatz, and put his army into places of cantonment.

His majesty the king of Prussia, entered Dresden in triumph, on the 21st of november, accompanied by the princes of his house, and several general officers, on horseback, followed by his regiment of life-guards, and took his residence at count Brühl's magnificent palace. He rode every day, and immediately on his coming, examined the fortifications of the city, as well as the provision and ammunition, with which it was stored: ten thousand of his troops were quartered in the city and the neighbouring villages. The number of mouths this occasioned to be at Dresden, enhanced the price of corn so much, that a bushel of wheat cost five crowns. And what enhanced this scarcity was, a monopoly, one single man having farmed all the mills in Saxony,

and the bakers were all obliged to have their corn ground at these mills; and although three memorials were presented to his polish majesty, requesting a remedy to so great a grievance; yet, such was the inattention of that court to the good of its subjects, that they rejected them, and the mills continued farmed.

The king of Prussia, during his stay at Dresden, in order to keep off the enemy's irregular troops from making incursions into Saxony, ordered ditches to be made ten ells broad, and five deep; and by laying trees across, made a sort of barricade. His majesty also ordered the fortifications of the city of Dresden to be considerably repaired and augmented, and formed a very considerable magazine there for the use of his troops. That monarch also sent advice to the lords of the regency, at Leipfick, that they must prepare quarters for 6000 prussian foot, and a regiment of horse, who soon after made their appearance in that city, to the great impoverishment of the inhabitants. His prussian majesty this winter raised 9000 men in the electorate of Saxony, to recruit his forces with.

The reader cannot but stop here one moment, to picture to himself the dismal state of Saxony. Without a sovereign; and his prussian majesty governing the whole electorate as absolutely as he did in Brandenburg; obliged to maintain, and even recruit an army of near 100,000 men; besides the enormous contributions every where demanded. It is true, the severity of the prussian discipline was such, that the country suffered less from them than they would have done from any other army in the world; but then the hardships which the poor peasants and burghers felt, were very terrible, from the licentious disposition of the conquering soldiers, which, though discipline greatly discouraged, yet it could never perfectly subdue it.

In this general scene of misfortunes, the only place of tranquility was Dresden, where the queen of Poland

land and her family still resided ; and though a paper war continued at the Hague, and several other courts, between the kings of Poland and Prussia, yet nothing was to be seen at Dresden, but the greatest politeness and complaisance. The king of Prussia admiring a very fine set of pictures in the royal palace ; her polish majesty being informed of it, ordered them to be immediately carried to that monarch. On the other hand, nothing was wanting to alleviate the disagreeableness of her present situation. The prussian officers were always present at the operas and balls, in the royal palace, which paved the way to several marriages between them and her polish majesty's maids of honour ; and his prussian majesty, whenever any birthday in the royal family happened, always sent marshal Keith to compliment the queen in his name.

Marshal Brown, in the mean time, finding that he had nothing more to fear from the prussians this winter, sent all his troops into winter quarters in Bohemia, fixing the head quarters at Prague.

His prussian majesty having seen every thing in proper order, throughout his winter quarters in Saxony, returned to Berlin, from whence he dictated many of those memorials which were published, in answer to those of his enemies, particularly of the house of Austria. His imperial majesty, in quality of head of the empire, issued a multitude of decrees against his prussian majesty, some addressed to himself and others to the empire : but all these threatening matters were regarded in the most contemptible light, by that monarch.

What gave him much more uneasiness, were the great preparations carrying on in Russia ; the czarina openly declared them to be designed against the king of Prussia, under the pretence of succouring her allies, as she was bound by the treaty to do : for this purpose, she made very considerable preparations, and that monarch was threatened with having at least 100,000 men on his back from

that quarter. The french also gave out, all over Europe, that they intended marching a formidable army to the assistance of their ally the empress queen; and the preparations they made on the frontiers of France, indicated some great design in hand.

To defend himself against so formidable a confederacy, this great monarch was obliged to let his own preparations for war keep pace with those of his enemies. He made levies all over his dominions, that his troops might bear some equality in number to those of his antagonists. In short, he showed, that his resources encreased in proportion, as his dangers multiplied.

Such was the end of the first campaign in Germany; gloriously finished on the part of his prussian majesty. He had discovered the unjust designs of his enemies, and he did as much as the greatest king could have done, to prevent their execution. He drove his enemy, the king of Poland, out of his hereditary dominions, and took possession of them himself, making his whole army prisoners of war. He carried the war into countries belonging to the empress queen, and gained a victory over her troops. In the paper war which was carried on between his, and his enemies ministers, at most of the courts in Europe, he was equally victorious. In short, his prussian majesty appeared every where, and conquest always for his attendant.

I shall conclude this chapter with some account of field marshal Keith, so often mentioned in it. This great man was a native of Scotland, that country having the honour of giving him birth in 1696. He is descended from one of its most antient and noble families. He was drawn into the rebellion against his majesty king George the 1st, in 1715, and behaved with great resolution and bravery, at the battle of Sherriffmuir. At the suppression of the rebellion, he went into France, where he studied mathematics under the celebrated

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M. de Maupertius ; he also made himself perfect master of the military part of geometry. From Paris he set out on his travels into Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Switzerland. On his return to that city, the czar of Muscovy, who was then at Paris, invited him to enter into his service, which Mr. Keith then refused. He was a volunteer in the french army at the storming the harbour of Vigo, in the year 1719, when he received a dangerous wound. From Paris he went to the court of Madrid, where, by the interest of the duke of Liria, he obtained a commission in the irish brigade, then commanded by the duke of Ormond. He accompanied the duke of Liria, in his embassy from the court of Spain, to Muscovy, which introduced him into the service of the czarina, who gave him a commission of brigadier general, and soon after, that of lieutenant general, and was invested with the order of the black eagle. In this quality he served under count Munich against the turks, commanding a body of 8000 men, at the siege of Oczakow, with great reputation, and receiving a wound in the thigh, for the cure of which he made a journey from Petersburgh to Paris ; as soon as he recovered he came over to London, and was very well received by his britannic majesty, who knew that he was forced into the rebellion, by a bigotted mother. On his return into Russia, peace reigned for some time through that empire ; but a war breaking out between the russians and swedes, they came to the battle of Wilmanstrand, wherein the former got the victory, owing to the good conduct of marshal Lacy and general Keith. He afterwards commanded an army of 30,000 men near Petersburg, when the amazing revolution in the russian empire was brought about, which placed the empress Elizabeth, daughter of Peter the great, on the throne of Russia. He also commanded an army against the swedes, in the war which took place soon after the revolution. On the conclusion of the peace with Sweden, the empress sent him ambassador to

Stockholm; and soon after created him field marshal in the russian armies. But taking some disgust to the russian service, whose pay is very small, he entered into the service of his prussian majesty, who received him in the most gracious manner, made him governor of Berlin, and a field marshal in the prussian armies; enjoying a large revenue, and the most gracious treatment from the king of Prussia. The first occasion for a display of his abilities, in the service of his new master, was the invasion of Saxony by that monarch: and of which I have just been endeavouring to present the reader with a clear and distinct view. His genius in the art of war, will appear more fully in the subsequent transactions.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

Affairs in England and France. Recapitulation of the affairs of France. Rise and progress of french power. Changes in the english ministry. Parliament meets. King's speech, and addresses. Board of enquiry on Stuart, Cornwallis, and Effingham. French king stabbed. Message to the house of commons. Naval transactions. Affairs in the East-Indies. Court martial on Admiral Byng. Its resolutions and sentence. The members of it examined by the house of lords. The admiral executed. Reflections.

NO part of history is so extremely difficult to write, as that which presents us with an account of the transactions performed in our own time. It is almost impossible entirely to dispel the cloud of obscurity which cover the motives, and secret springs that occasion many remarkable events. An historian ought to be in the cabinet of princes, and at the head of their armies; yet, even with these advantages, the prejudices of religion, and partiality towards his own country, will be apt to taint the truth of his narrations. In short, so many great and noble qualities are requisite to adorn the mind of a complete historian, that very few since the creation of the world have advanced near to the highest pitch of historic excellence. But in the latter ages of the world, we have never found that any one, who ventured into that part of history I just mentioned, ever gained a great reputation; owing to the difficulty of judging clearly on the actions of our cotemporaries. The reader must pardon this short digression. To return.

Hitherto the british nation had been engaged in an unsuccessful war against France. The advantages
M 4 which

which the enemy had gained, were not of very great consequence in themselves; but as they brought a reputation on their arms; and yet more, as they sunk and depressed the spirits of their adversaries. The english pined with discontent, on their not being victorious in a just and necessary war. The only consolation they received, was from the eclat of the king of Prussia's success; and the hopes of a change in the english ministry, and, consequently, of one in the measures of the nation. The discontents of the people ran very high throughout the kingdom: they could not forget Minorca: one may perceive how imbittered their minds were, by reading the addresses which were presented to the king on that occasion, from most of the boroughs and corporations in England.

Bad success, in the beginning of a war, under such a government as subsists in England, is the necessary consequence of a war. France, from the nature of her government, constantly keeps up a great force both by land and sea; so that, no sooner has she resolved on a war with any of her neighbours, than her forces are ready to march against her enemies. In England the case is quite different: let a war be ever so necessary, a king of England can take no steps to prosecute it, before its necessity and consequences are debated in parliament; and, even when they are approved of, the forces to carry on such a war are all to be raised, (a very few excepted) and disciplined; it is always some time before such troops as those can be brought to a clear knowledge of their manual exercise; without which, every one knows, they can be of but little use; and when they have acquired a competent dexterity in that part of the art of war, they are not then, by any means, on an equality with veteran troops.

From these reasons it is very evident, that France must, almost in the nature of things, have a great advantage

advantage over England, in the beginning of every war : not only reason, but the remembrance of past events will teach us this piece of political knowledge. But it is necessary for the clearer understanding of this work to take a view of the state of France at this period.

The reader must not here expect to find this potent kingdom considered in the same light, as it was during the reign of her late monarch Lewis XIV, who approached almost as near to universal monarchy, as the emperor Charles V did in Germany and Spain. It was a general concatenation of events that rendered France so extremely formidable.

That monarch succeeded Lewis XIII in the throne, in 1643, at a time when France was neither in a very flourishing nor a very feeble state. Ann of Austria obtained the sole regency of the kingdom ; and made cardinal Mazarine, her chief minister, master of France and of herself. He had obtained that power over her, which an artful man will acquire over a woman, born without strength sufficient to govern, yet, with constancy enough to persist in her choice*.

This minister, who governed France with variety of success, for 18 years, was formerly a mere adventurer, without any great pretences to family, credit or fortune ; by birth a gentleman of Rome : his first patron was cardinal Sachetti ; then he became a captain of horse ; but being taken notice of by cardinal Antonio Barberrini, he laid aside the military, and assumed the ecclesiastical habit. He was agent for the french, at the peace of Casal, and behaving with courage and dexterity, recommended himself to cardinal Richelieu, who took him entirely into his confidence, and procured him a hat from Rome. He

* Vide Voltaire's Works.

had

had a fine person, an easy and insinuating address, was possessed of all genteel accomplishments, had an air of courtesy, and kindness, spoke sensibly of affairs of importance, agreeably and pleasantly on all other topics. In short, he was an able statesman, and a finished courtier; but as for religion, virtue, honour, probity or regard for the people, they were (to speak without envy or prejudice) things out of his way; he did not either pretend to them himself, nor was he suspected of having any acquaintance with them by others.

On his death the administration of affairs fell into the hands of Tellier, Colbert, and de Lionne, who had address enough, by flattering their master, to keep their posts for a considerable time. Colbert was comptroller general of the finances; a man of great parts, and most extensive genius: the war which preceded the treaty of Aix la Chapelle, concluded in 1668, was carried successfully through the abilities and advice of this minister; who always kept the revenues of France in most excellent order: by that treaty France gained several important towns in Flanders. But the greatness of Colbert's genius is best seen in the great encouragement he gave to trade and manufactures; it was through his management, that France became a maritime power. It was really astonishing to behold the sea-ports, which before were deserted and in ruins, now surrounded by works which were at once both their ornament and their defence; covered also with ships and mariners, and containing already near sixty large men of war. New colonies under the protection of the french flag, were sent from all parts into America, the East-Indies, and the coasts of Africa. These were the great effects of that able minister's administration, more for the advantage and glory of France than all the sounding conquests of Lewis XIV.

But

But the affairs of that nation took a very fatal change, in the war that monarch went into to support his grandson on the throne of Spain. His able ministers, who had formerly conducted his affairs with so much glory, were now all dead, and in their room none were placed but youths of no experience: Condé, Luxemburg, and Turenne, no longer commanded the armies of France; military discipline, the very soul of armies, was utterly neglected; the marine was ruined, and all trade was at a stand. The peace of Utrecht saved the nation from entire destruction.

During the regency of the duke of Orleans, France recovered herself considerably; that prince's administration was certainly the best calculated for the interest of the kingdom, of any he could possibly pursue; and his plan for foreign affairs was the best laid, and best conducted, that the french had ever seen. He found the kingdom burdened with an immense national debt, by some calculated to be near three hundred millions sterling: every one knows the rise and progress of the famous Mississippi scheme, by which the nation annihilated so many millions. As destructive as such a scheme might be to individuals, yet the nation in general gained considerably by it; and from that period, we find France continually regaining her credit, commerce, and power. At the beginning of the war of 1741, she was again much too powerful for the repose of Europe; by sea indeed, that power was not so formidable as it was by land; since it is very certain, at the beginning of it, the whole naval power of France did not consist of quite forty ships of war of all sizes, which, though it be very short of what it was at the opening of the present century, yet is much superior to any force the french had of that nature, before the reign of Lewis XIV. And the commerce of France, though it was much inferior to what it had been, was yet certainly
very

very considerable ; for France lost by that war, in its trade, two hundred millions of their money, which makes above nine millions three hundred thousand pounds of ours : by which we may perceive, that their trade was arrived at a surprising height ; but then we also find that it was reduced by that war to nothing.

After the conclusion of the peace, the french ministry continued to load the kingdom with exorbitant taxes, to pay those debts they had contracted during the war ; but the miserable condition of the nation at that time, was such, that they could not afford so large a part of their property, as was necessary to discharge them ; so that France at the commencement of the late war was burdened with very near the same debts, as she was at the conclusion of the preceding one.

With England the case was different. This nation indeed, was burthened with a very heavy national debt ; but then she enjoyed a more extensive and flourishing commerce than France, and her naval power infinitely exceeded that of her enemy. Yet these advantages we find were ballanced at the beginning of the war, by the advantages which the government of France has over a limited one in military proceedings. This was the case in the war of which I am speaking ; hitherto, very indifferent success had crowned the attempts of the british nation ; Europe, Asia, and America, were equally the unsuccessful theatres of our military affairs.

This bad success, although it depended in part on the natural consequences of the war, yet the ministry then at the helm of affairs in this kingdom, certainly did not shew those abilities, and resolution, that were necessary to carry on so great an undertaking as a war with France. In England a minister always makes a very bad figure at the eve of a war. It is the nature of our constitution, to have an opposition to every minister's

minister's measures, carried on in parliament: this ran extremely high at the beginning of this war; ever since the loss of Minorca, which reflected so much disgrace on the british nation, the kingdom in general wished ardently for a change, both of ministers and measures.

The effects of this general discontent were soon perceived; for we find, that in the beginning of november, his majesty was pleased to make the following alterations in the ministry; the duke of Devonshire was made first lord commissioner of the treasury, in the room of the duke of Newcastle, who was created a duke of Great Britain by the title of the duke of Newcastle under Lyne, in the county of Stafford. The other commissioners were, the right hon. Henry Legge, Robert Nugent, esq. the lord viscount Duncannon, and the hon. James Grenville. The right hon. Henry Legge, was also appointed chancellor and under treasurer of the Exchequer. The right hon. the earl of Ilchester, and James Cressert, esq. were made comptrollers of the accounts of his majesty's army. The new commissioners of the admiralty were Richard earl of Temple, the hon. Edward Boscawen, Temple West, and John Pitt, esqrs. George Hay, L. L. D. Thomas Orby Hunter, and Gilbert Elliot, esqrs. The right hon. George Grenville, was made treasurer of his majesty's navy. Earl Temple, lord Mansfield, John viscount Bateman (treasurer of his majesty's household) and Richard Edgecombe, esq. (comptroller of his majesty's household) were sworn of the privy council. John lord Berkeley was made captain of his majesty's band of pensioners. The right hon. Wills Hill, earl of Hillsborough, in Ireland, was created a baron of Great Britain, by the title of lord Harwich. Sir George Lyttleton was created Baron Lyttleton. The 4th of december following, his majesty appointed the right hon. William Pitt, to be one of his majesty's principal secretaries

cretaries of state, in the room of the right hon. Henry Fox, who resigned. This principal, amongst the party who were now pushed out of the ministry, finding the current run so strong against him, thought it prudent to resign, with hopes that he might have an opportunity to regain his power, and establish himself more firmly in his lost seat.

Private adventurers by sea, met with more general success in their undertakings than the royal squadrons. That of the antigallican privateer in particular; it was fitted out by the society of antigallicans; it was formerly the Flamborough man of war, then a merchant's vessel, and afterwards the antigallican privateer; she mounted 28 guns, and carried 208 men; was commanded by captain William Foster. She sailed from Deptford the 17th of september. About 100 leagues west of Lisbon, she met with the Maria Theresa, a french ship from the West-Indies, mounting 14 carriage guns, and carrying 30 men; after a brisk engagement for a quarter of an hour she struck, and was valued at upwards of 20,000 l. A little further south, the antigallican took a snow, of 180 tons, from Bourdeaux, laden with wine, bale goods, pitch, and distilled waters, valued at near 15,000 l. A little north east of Madeira, she was chased by two french men of war, but escaped by means of a calm.

They next cruised off the coast of Galicia in Spain; and on the 26th of december in the morning, discovered a sail; they gave chase under spanish colours; at 12 got within gun-shot, when she fired a gun, upon which the antigallican took down spanish and hung up english colours, on which the enemy gave them a broad-side, and killed three men, but had no return till the english captain was close along-side, where he engaged till three, when she struck. She proved to be the duke de Penthièvre East-India man, bound last from Madagascar, and commanded by
captain

captain Villeneuf, was upwards of 1000 tons burthen, mounting 50 guns; the french captain and 12 men were killed, the second captain shot through the shoulder, and 27 more were wounded. Capt. Foster lost 12 men and 26 wounded. The captain proceeded for Cadiz, where he met with very disagreeable treatment, for the spaniards in the french interest, together with the french consuls insisted that the duke de Penthievre was taken within gun-shot of the coast of Spain; the truth of this did not appear altogether so clear; but if it was so, the behaviour of the spaniards in the affair was unprecedented, and contrary to the laws of nations: a rupture with Spain at that time, would have been of very bad consequence; so the restitution of the prize was agreed to by the english ministry.

Such was the issue of an affair which made much noise, and occasioned very just observations on the partiality of the spaniards to our enemies the french; which some were pleased to attribute to the dishonour which the nation sustained in the loss of Minorca; and that certainly with some reason; for the spaniards were the first nation who exposed their surprise at so strange an affair as the conquest of Minorca: It appeared very strange in their eyes, that the most powerful maritime nation in the world, should suffer so ignominious a loss. Even at this day, it is not clearly proved, whether the indiaman was a lawful prize or not; but thus far we may affirm with certainty, that the irregularity with which the spaniards conducted, or rather obscured the transactions in this affair, was illegal, and fully proved how partially they acted towards the french.

But it is now time to give the reader some account of the proceedings in parliament, for we must look into them to perceive the important springs that move the great machine of the british power. That august assembly met on the 2d of december, when his majesty

majesty came with the usual state, and made a most gracious speech to both houses; and received as dutiful and affectionate addresses.

His majesty mentioned his having sent the hanoverian troops home, and in the lords address he was thanked for bringing them over; but it occasioned a warm debate in the house; however, as his majesty had sent for them at the request of his parliament, the thanks were at last agreed to by the majority of the house. But in the address of the commons, no such paragraph of thanks appeared.

In pursuance of what was mentioned concerning them, in his majesty's speech, we find that the hanoverians were sent home; and in that manner ended part of a measure which reflected so much dishonour on the nation; and will always be remembered in the annals of Britain with regret. But it was not yet thought seasonable to part with the Hessians. They were ordered into winter quarters.

Indeed there was nothing in England at this time but wore a gloomy appearance. It is a very great presumption, that the affairs of a nation does not go well, when there are many court martials and boards of enquiry; this was the case in the beginning of this war in England. His majesty by a warrant dated november the 22d, directed sir John Ligonier, general Huske, and general Cholmondeley to enquire into the conduct of major general Stuart, and the colonels Cornwallis, and the earl of Effingham. The charge against them, was their not joining their respective commands in the island of Minorca. The board met december the 8th, and were also to enquire, whether they had used their utmost endeavour to throw themselves into fort St. Philip's; and why, being only passengers, they assisted at the sea council of war, which advised Mr. Byng to return immediately to Gibraltar.

The three officers made much the same defence; they proved that it was not in their power to be at Minorca before Mr. Byng's fleet, and that they could not throw themselves into that island; that as to their assisting at the council of war, they supposed themselves under the command of the admiral; and assisted, as they thought they were bound to co-operate with the sea officers, to the utmost of their power, for the advancement of his majesty's service. General Cornwallis added verbally, " May I be permitted
 " to say, that I have been now upwards of 26
 " years in his majesty's service, and employed in
 " more service, and greater variety, perhaps, than
 " any officer of my years and standing in the army;
 " that it has been my good fortune, during the
 " course of my service, never to have had a reprimand, or even a rebuke, from any superior officer;
 " and, that I have had the honour to serve under
 " the several general officers appointed for this enquiry; I flatter myself they will bear testimony of
 " my zeal for, and forwardness in, the king's service
 " upon all occasions." On the whole, the board humbly submitted it to his majesty, as their unanimous opinion, that the conduct of the said major general and colonels was clear from any suspicion of disobedience of orders, or neglect of duty.

In France, the winter was spent in the usual preparations for war; but every thing was suddenly stopped on the 6th of january, by one of the most desperate attempts recorded in history. As the king was going from Trianon to Versailles, to visit madam de Victoire; about six in the evening, as his majesty was just stepping into his coach, to return to Trianon, a man, who had concealed himself between the hind wheels, rushed forward, with his hat on, made his way to the king's person through the guards (one of whom he shoved against the dauphin) and struck his majesty on the right side, of which however,

ever, he only complained, by saying, " That man " has given me a violent blow, he must be either " mad or drunk." But having perceived that his hand which he clapped to his side, was bloody, he said, " I am wounded; seize that fellow but don't " kill him. His majesty was immediately carried to his apartment. The wound, (which from the first was not thought dangerous) was given with a sharp pointed knife, which glanced upwards between the fourth and fifth rib, but was not of any considerable depth; and at the first dressing, it was even judged that the cure would be speedy. That night the king slept an hour and a quarter, and every day recovered more and more. The day after the king received the wound, the dauphin was charged with the administration of the kingdom, and presided in the council of state during the king's illness. The next day, all the presidents and counsellors of the parliament, assembled, and deliberated on the event; and in the evening they carried to Versailles the deliberation.

The wretch, Robert Francis Damien (for that was his name) was born in 1714, at Arras; in 1738 he married, and had a daughter by that marriage. His brother was immediately taken into custody. His father was still living, in the 85th year of his age. The process against him was begun at Versailles, and the conclusion of it was, that his father, wife and daughter, should quit the kingdom for ever; but as for himself,—humanity won't permit me to recite the barbarous shocking cruelties which were made use of at his execution, to torture a poor wretch, who plainly appeared, by his trial, to be mad.

The preparations which were making by France, convinced the british ministry, that the war England was engaged in, would prove a continental one. The french were drawing their troops together from all parts, into two camps on the frontiers of Flanders, which seemed, by their situation, to contain armies destined

stined to act in Germany. Indeed it was believed, in all the courts of Europe, that France would, early in the spring, march an army into the electorate of Hanover, to involve an innocent people into the horrors of a bloody war, because their sovereign was king of England. In fact, this design of the french was so much regarded in England as to occasion the following message being sent by his majesty, by Mr. secretary Pitt, to the house of commons, the 17th of february, 1757, viz.

“ George R.

It is always with reluctance that his majesty asks any extraordinary supplies of his people; but as the united councils and formidable preparations of France, and her allies, threaten, with the most alarming consequences, Europe in general; and as these most unjust and vindictive designs are particularly and immediately bent against his majesty's electoral dominions, and those of his good ally the king of Prussia; his majesty confides in the experienced zeal and affection of his faithful commons, that they will chearfully assist him, in forming and maintaining an army of observation, for the just and necessary defence and preservation thereof; and enable his majesty to fulfil his engagements with the king of Prussia, for the security of the empire, against the irruption of foreign armies, and for the support of the common cause.

G. R.”

This message was referred to the committee of supply; and on the 21st it was resolved to grant his majesty 200,000 l. for the purposes therein mentioned in it. Let us for a moment enquire into the utility of this measure; and we shall find, for all what some pretended politicians are pleased to tell us to the contrary, that it was a necessary one; we might be very

sure, when first the british ministry seized the ships of France, that that nation would revenge itself by attacking Hanover, and it certainly was consonant with laws, human and divine, to resolve to defend it, considering the unhappy hanoverians were forced into a destructive war, on our account, without having more to do with the troubles then in Europe than the inhabitants of Lapland; and, as the measure was just and necessary, it was also necessary to form an army of observation, for that purpose. His royal highness the duke of Cumberland was appointed by his majesty for that command; he embarked at Harwich the 9th of april, in his way to Hanover, where he arrived safe: and where I shall leave him till I come to give an account of the operations of the troops under his command.

The naval affairs of England at this period, were not of great eclat. The french were extremely busy in fitting out two great fleets at Brest, and port l'Orient; the english ministry had taken care to have a superior one lying off Brest harbour, under the command of sir Edward Hawke, who, in that station, succeeded Mr. Boscawen, and had dispatched admiral West with 11 sail of the line on a cruise to the westward: But all these precautions did not hinder a french squadron getting out of Brest, and the other likewise from port l'Orient. The one convoyed troops for the west, and the other set sail for the East-Indies. The former was under the command of M. de Beaufrémont, and consisted of sixteen sail of the line, and five frigates, carrying between 5 and 6000 men on board. Another french squadron, under the command of M. de Revest, a french admiral, also sailed from Toulon for America; admiral Saunders was then at Gibraltar, with an english one, and was informed that the french appeared off Malaga, upon which he went, with five ships, in pursuit of them; the 5th of april he saw the french, and, being to leeward, formed a line,

line, as did the enemy, and some of the ships began to engage at a distance; but before the rest got up, they lost sight of the french, and could meet with them no more: what was peculiarly unfortunate was, Mr. Saunders's not being able to prevent Reveft passing the Streights, which he did, in his way to America. The english West-India fleet, under admiral Townshend, at this time, consisted of four ships of the line and three frigates: it was very surprising that the british ministry had not sent a greater force to that station, especially as there were so many french squadrons ready to sail.

In the East-Indies a much brighter success attended the british arms. Mr. Watson, the english admiral, who commanded in the East-Indies, sailed from Madrafs, on the 16th of october, with three sail of the line and some frigates, for Bengal, and after a tedious voyage arrived, december the 5th, at the port of Balasore, in the kingdom of Bengal, where strengthening his force with what recruits he could draw together, he entered the Ganges, and after a short resistance, on the 30th of january, made himself master of Busbudgia, having landed colonel Clive to attack it by land: the conquest of this fort opened a passage to Calcutta, the late principal settlement of the company in Bengal, and the scene of the deplorable sufferings of so many of our unfortunate countrymen. The troops and sailors, at the very sight of the place, were animated with revenge, and attacked it with so much bravery, that they became masters of it the very day it was approached, and found in it four mortars, 91 guns of different sizes, and a considerable quantity of all kinds of ammunition. In a few days afterwards, they burnt and destroyed the city of Hughley, together with the granaries and store-houses of salt, situated on the banks of each side the river, which was of great prejudice to the nabob's army.

The nabob, in the mean time, finding how victorious the english arms were, when opposed only by garri-sons of indians, marched down, on the 2d of february, 1757, with his whole army, consisting of 10,000 horse and 12,000 foot, with a design to drive the english from their late conquests. Col. Clive immediately demanded of the admiral a detachment of sailors, to come to the assistance of the land forces; accordingly the admiral detached capt. Warwick with a party. On receiving this reinforcemet, the colonel determined to attack the nabob in his camp, although he was so much superior to him in numbers. On the 5th, he put this bold design in execution; the victory was complete, the nabob being obliged to quit the field of battle, since none of his troops could stand against the desperate bravery of their enemies.

The consequence of this battle was, that the nabob made proposals of peace to col. Clive, which were agreed to. By this treaty the english East-India company were re-established in the possession of all its settlements and privileges, an immunity from all taxes was granted, and a restitution promised of all that the company had suffered at the taking of Calcutta.

The war with the indians being thus for a while concluded, the admiral thought he could not better employ his forces than by attacking the settlement of the french at Chandernagore, situated several miles higher up the river than Calcutta, being a place of considerable strength and importance, and one of the greatest which the french had in that part of the East-Indies. Col. Clive, for this expedition, put himself at the head of 700 europeans, and 1700 blacks, and the admirals Watson and Pocock commanded the fleet, which was to second the operations of the land forces. To prevent an attack from shipping, the french sunk several large vessels in the river; but this intended precaution was of no service, for Mr. Watson

Watson having diligently sounded the river, found a safe passage, without weighing up any of the ships; so that on the 24th he sailed up, and fired so briskly on the place, the same being done from col. Clive's batteries on the shore, that it capitulated in three hours. They had in the fort 1200 men, 500 of which were europeans, and 700 blacks; 183 pieces of cannon, from 24 pounders and downwards; three small mortars, and a considerable quantity of ammunition.

This great success paved the way for more considerable operations. The english had found that the nabob, although he had signed a peace with them, was not to be trusted; and would break it on the first good opportunity. Mr. Watson and col Clive having re-established the East-India company in their possessions, and things being quiet, consulted the most considerable of their body which were the wisest measures to be put in execution against the nabob, so as to ensure themselves in safety. That prince had shewn his bad intentions, by not executing the late treaty, on frivolous pretences. It was resolved, that the most expedient manner of bringing him to reason, was by force of arms; accordingly they prepared to attack him, a scheme full of the most dangerous difficulties; but these were in great part removed, by a most fortunate incident, which they had not the least reason to expect, when they took the resolution to attack him.

The nabob, as I have more fully said before, was one of the most horrid tyrants that ever afflicted any nation; his subjects, as well as his enemies, had experienced the violence and perfidy of his temper; they were all discontented with his government, particularly the most considerable officers in his army, who had entered into a conspiracy against him, at the head of which was Jaffier Ali Cawn, a man of great power and interest. No sooner were their designs ripe for execution, than they communicated them to the eng-

lish government in Calcutta, desiring their assistance. Nothing could better agree with their designs; they were too weak to encounter alone, although the spirit of their leaders had overlooked the numbers of their enemies; but being aided by this conspiracy, they did not doubt of punishing the nabob, in such a manner as his perfidy deserved. They did not hesitate a moment, but entered into a treaty with Jaffier Ali Cawn, and the rest of the conspirators; and in consequence of that action, the english troops marched under colonel Clive. That none of the landmen might be kept at home, the admiral garrisoned Chandernagore with his sailors, and moreover detached 50 of them to join the army, to serve as gunners. All these steps being taken, in order to ensure success in their attempt, they advanced up the river, with design to bring the nabob's army to a battle; they effected this in a few days, and the victory was decided in favour of the english, being fought on the 22d of june. A considerable part of the nabob's army, under the command of Jaffier, remained inactive during the engagement; and the nabob finding himself deserted by his own officers, fled with the few that remained faithful to him, leaving the field of battle to his enemies. The battle was no sooner over, than Jaffier Ali Cawn openly declared himself, and entered Muxadavat, the capital of the kingdom, with an army of his friends, and victorious allies. By the assistance of col. Clive, he placed himself in the ancient seat of the nabob's, and received the homage of all ranks of people, as suba of Bengal, Bahar and Orixá: he soon after put to death the deposed nabob.

By the alliance which colonel Clive concluded with Jaffier, and by the reduction of Chandernagore, the french were entirely driven out of Bengal, and all its dependencies, this being one of the articles of the treaty. By the rest a perpetual alliance,

ance, offensive and defensive, was made between the parties, the territories of the company were enlarged, and upwards of 2,000,000 sterling was stipulated to be paid, as an indemnification to the East-India company, and the sufferers in the taking of Calcutta. The new nabob, through gratitude to those who had placed him in his throne, gave, besides the above large sums, about 600,000 l. as a gratuity to the sea squadron and troops.

In this wonderful manner was the english successful in the East-Indies. In thirteen days they effected so great a revolution, with such an inconsiderable number of troops, giving away a kingdom near as big as France, a kingdom more fertile, more populous, and infinitely more rich. All this was the result of that prudence, conduct, and courage, with which the admiral and colonel, seconded by the intrepidity of their men, formed and executed such noble and daring projects. Indeed, the joy of the nation, on hearing these signal successes, was much damped by the death of admiral Watson, who lost his life by the unwholesomeness of the climate, having gained a great and lasting reputation.

In England, the face of affairs had not such a bright aspect. The nation, at this time, was entirely held in suspense, about the fate of Mr. Byng. By his majesty's command, signified to the commissioners of the admiralty, that unfortunate admiral was brought before a court martial, which met on the 28th of december, 1756, on board the St. George ship in Portsmouth harbour, and consisted of the following members :

Thomas Smith, esq. vice-admiral of the red,
 Francis Holbourne, esq. rear-admiral of the red,
 Harry Norris, esq. rear-admiral of the white,
 Thomas Broderick, esq. rear-admiral of the blue.

Captain

Captain Charles Holmes,
 Captain William Boys,
 Captain John Simcoe,
 Captain John Bentley,
 Captain Peter Denis,
 Captain Francis Geary,
 Captain John Moore,
 Captain James Douglass,
 Hon. Augustus Keppel.

The admiral's instructions, letters, and other necessary papers being read to the court, they proceeded to examine their witnesses. These examinations would be tedious to the reader ; and besides, every paragraph so abounds with naval terms, understood only by sea officers, that not one man in twenty would be able to understand a syllable of it ; for which reason, I shall only give the substance of the resolutions of the court martial, and make such remarks upon them, in particular, and on the sentence in general, as will enable the reader to form some judgment on an affair, concerning which, opinions are at this day divided.

The 26th of january it was found, that the court had come on the three preceding days to the following resolutions, viz.

1. It does not appear the admiral made any unnecessary delay in his way from St. Hellens to Minorca.

2. It appears, that on the fleet's getting sight of Minorca, on the 19th of may, the admiral detached capt. Harvey with three frigates, to endeavour to land a letter for general Blakeney ; and to reconnitre the enemies batteries.

3. It appears, that those frigates were got near to Mahon, endeavouring to execute the orders, till they were called off by signal from the admiral.

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4. It appears that the fleet stood towards the enemy the remaining part of the day.

5. The court are of opinion, that the admiral proceeded properly, upon discovery of the french fleet, to stand towards them.

6. It appears, that major general Stuart, lord Effingham, and col. Cornwallis, and 200 men, with their officers, belonging to the garrison, were on board the squadron.

7. The court are of opinion, that as so great a number of officers were on board the fleet, the admiral ought to have put them on board one of the above-mentioned frigates, to have landed them, if found practicable; and if not landed before he saw the french fleet, to have left the frigates to have effected it notwithstanding.

8. It appears, that from the morning of the 19th, when the admiral first saw the french fleet, till the 20th at noon, the admiral took proper measures to gain and keep the wind of the enemy, and to form and close the line of battle.

13. It appears, that the admiral made the signal for battle about 20 minutes after two o'clock.

14. It appears, at the time the signal was made for battle, our van was considerably nearer to their van, than our rear was to their rear.

15. It appears, that upon signal being made for battle, the ships of our van division bore down properly, for the ships opposed to them, in the enemy's line, and engaged them, till the five headmost ships of the enemy went away out of gun-shot.

16. It appears, that the Intrepid having engaged 10 minutes, or a quarter of an hour, lost her fore-topmast.

19. It is the opinion of the court, that the admiral, in the Ramillies, after the signal was made for battle, separated the rear from the van division, and retarded the
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the rear division of the british fleet from closing with, and engaging the enemy, by his shortening sail.

20. It is the opinion of the court, that instead of shortening sail, the admiral ought to have made the Trident and the Princess Louisa signals to make more sail; and he ought also to have set so much sail himself, as would have enabled the Culloden to have kept her station, in order to have got down with as much expedition as possible to the enemy, and thereby have properly supported the van division.

23. It appears, that when the firing had been continued a little while in the Ramillies, an alarm was given, of a ship being close under her lee-bow, which proved to be the Trident; upon which the admiral shortened sail, and ordered his men to cease firing till they should see french colours.

24. It appears, that the Princess Louisa was also seen about the same time, upon the weather-bow of the Ramillies.

25. The court are of opinion, that while the Ramillies was firing, in going down, the Trident, and ships immediately a-head of the Ramillies, proved an impediment to the Ramillies continuing to go down.

26. The court are of opinion, that the admiral acted wrong, in directing the fire of the Ramillies to be continued, before he had placed her at a proper distance from the enemy; as he thereby not only threw away shot uselessly, but occasioned a smoke, which prevented his seeing the motions of the enemy, and the position of the ships immediately a-head of the Ramillies.

32. The court are of opinion, that after the ships, which had received damage in the action, were as much refitted, as circumstances would permit, the admiral ought to have returned with the Squadron off St. Philip's, and have endeavoured to have opened a communication with that castle; and to have used every

every means in his power, for its relief, before he returned to Gibraltar.

33. The court are of opinion, that admiral Byng did not do his utmost to relieve St. Philip's castle, in the island of Minorca, then besieged by the forces of the french king.

34. The court are of opinion, that admiral Byng, during the engagement, did not do his utmost to take, seize, and destroy the ships of the french king, which it was his duty to have engaged; and to assist such of his majesty's ships as were engaged in fight with the french ships, which it was his duty to have assisted.

35. It appears, by the evidence of lord Robert Bertie, lieutenant colonel Smith, captain Gardiner, and by other officers of the ship, who were near the person of the admiral, that they did not perceive any backwardness in the admiral, during the action, or any marks of fear or confusion, either from his countenance or behaviour; but, that he seemed to give his orders coolly and distinctly, and did not seem wanting in personal courage.

36. Resolved, that the admiral appears to fall under the following part of the 12th article of war, to wit, " or shall not do his utmost to take or destroy every ship, which it shall be his duty to engage; and to assist and relieve all and every of his majesty's ships, which it shall be his duty to assist and relieve."

37. Resolved, as that article positively prescribes death, without any alternative left to the discretion of the court, under any variation of circumstances, that he be adjudged to be shot to death, at such time, and on board such ship, as the lords commissioners of the admiralty shall direct. But as it appears by the evidence of lord Robert Bertie, lieutenant colonel Smith, captain Gardiner, and other officers of the ship, who were near the person of the admiral, that they did not perceive any backwardness in him during
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the action, or any marks of fear or confusion, either from his countenance or behaviour, but that he seemed to give his orders coolly and distinctly, and did not seem wanting in personal courage, and from other circumstances; the court do not believe, that his misconduct arose either from cowardice or disaffection; and do therefore unanimously think it their duty most earnestly to recommend him as a proper object of mercy.

At the same time that these resolutions were transmitted to the lords of the admiralty, the members of the court drew up a representation to that board, which, as it is a very remarkable paper, I shall present the reader with it at full length.

“ We the underwritten, the president and members of the court martial, assembled for the trial of admiral Byng, believe it unnecessary to inform your lordships, that in the whole course of this long trial, we have done our utmost endeavours to come at truths, and do the strictest justice to our country and the prisoner; but we cannot help laying the distresses of our minds before your lordships, on this occasion, in finding ourselves under a necessity of condemning a man to death, from a great severity of the 12th article of war, part of which he falls under, and which admits of no mitigation, even if the crime should be committed by an error in judgment only; and therefore, for our consciences sakes, as well as in justice to the prisoner, we pray your lordships, in the most earnest manner, to recommend him to his majesty's clemency. We are, &c, Dated Jan. 27, 1757.

Such were the resolutions of this court martial; and such their representation to the admiralty. The reader, no doubt, in his perusal of them, has been much surpris'd to find the admiral's judges condemn him to death, for his falling under part of the 12th article of war, and most earnestly recommending him to his majesty,

majesty, as a proper object for mercy; and their reason for this sentence is, the severity of that article of war. But here I must warn the reader, not to expect certainty or demonstration in what I shall advance on this subject; I shall only make a few remarks, such as naturally arise from a due consideration of the whole affair.

The 12th article of war runs,—“ Every person in the fleet, who, through cowardice, negligence, or disaffection, shall, in time of action, &c. &c.—and being convicted thereof, by the sentence of a court martial, shall suffer death.” On this, Mr. Byng, (in his defence, which is penned with great art and judgment) justly observes, that, in order to bring any person within the peril of this article, he must be convicted of cowardice, negligence, or disaffection; for though he should fail to engage or assist, &c. unless this failure apparently proceeds from one of these causes, he is not guilty.—Negligence cannot be taken in so large a sense, as to mean every sort of neglect or omission; but such gross negligence only, as evidently indicates cowardice or disaffection.

Let me in the next place observe, that the court martial, in their 37th resolution, acquits him from cowardice or disaffection, in these words, “ The court do not believe, that his misconduct arose either from cowardice or disaffection.” Consequently they could then condemn him only for his negligence; that word equally means the negligence occasioned by cowardice or disaffection, and that occasioned by error in judgment; the former of these, the court acquits him of; and, as to the latter, they formed a very just opinion of it, when they represented to the admiralty the great severity of the 12th article of war, which admits of no mitigation, even if the crime should be committed by any error in judgment only.

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In the 7th resolution of the court martial, they are of opinion, that the admiral ought to have put the officers on board one of the frigates he sent a-head to be landed. But it ought here to be remembered, that when the fleet arrived off Minorca, several of the ships were dispersed; and the officers belonging to the garrison were distributed throughout the different ships of the fleet; and could not have been put on board one of the frigates at that time, without some hours delay; when, at the same time, the fleet was advancing with a fresh gale of wind, and fair for the harbour. Would it not have been very injudicious in the admiral, when the enemy's fleet appeared steering towards ours, and was known to be superior to it, to weaken his own force*; especially as his fleet was badly manned, and sickly; for the men belonging to the frigates were necessary, and were actually distributed to reinforce the line of battle ships: the enemy were at that time masters of the harbour, and it might have been regarded as an imprudent step to hazard so many officers in a single frigate, under that circumstance.

In the 37th resolution of this court martial, they are of opinion, that the admiral ought to have returned, after the action off St. Philip's, and have endeavoured to open a communication with the castle, before he returned to Gibraltar. I must, on this resolution, remark, that after the action, the enemy's fleet was seen several times lying between the english fleet and the harbour, so that it was impossible to attempt it, without coming to a second battle. The french fleet had not, to appearance, suffered any di-

* Mr. West, in his evidence, says, that the garrison of St. Philip's was to look on the english fleet at that time as its protection, as far as it might be supposed able to protect it; therefore, the weakening the force of the fleet would have been highly inexcusable, under the circumstance of seeing the enemy's fleet, as well as by exposing the english fleet to that of the enemy, who was at that time, in my opinion, superior to it.

minution in its force; whereas four of our ships were rendered incapable of action, the Intrepid was obliged to be towed with jury masts to Gibraltar, and when the Portland arrived there, it could not be hove down; and was reported unfit for service: further, the admiral called, on the 23th of may, a general council of war, of all the sea and land officers, who were unanimously of opinion, that it was for his majesty's service to proceed directly to Gibraltar. And what is very remarkable, this council of war was taken no notice of in the resolutions of court martial*.

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* I shall here beg leave to give a few short extracts from the trial.

Admiral West was asked,

Quest. Do you apprehend, if it had been practicable, and the land forces had been thrown in to reinforce the garrison, that the ships would have been fit for action, to engage the enemy's fleet?

Answ. No, I think not.

Quest. Do you apprehend that the throwing in such an inconsiderable reinforcement, as one hundred officers and recruits, had there been a probability of effecting it, would have been a sufficient reason for loosing time, and delaying to attack the enemy's fleet, when in sight?

Answ. I have said of how little use it appears to me, these officers and soldiers would have been to the garrison; and though, even they might have been of more use than I imagine, the men were at that time very necessary to the service of the fleet, and therefore not to be parted with, independent even of the delay which it might have occasioned.

Quest. Do you apprehend it would have been proper for the admiral to have left any of the frigates, and by that means to have lessened his force, and deprived the fleet of the use of any of the ships or men, when upon the brink of coming to an action?

Answ. As some ships of the fleet, from sickness, or being short of complement, wanted men to supply the deficiency, I do apprehend, that the leaving any frigates behind, would have been improper, as their men would have been taken away from supplying such deficiency in part, for which they were necessary.

Captain Gardiner was asked,

Quest. Had you any men killed in the action?

Answ. No; nor do I look upon her to have been engaged as the admiral could have wished, and expressed his inclination to do, having several times said in our going down, while the shot were flying

As soon as the sentence was known, the lords of the admiralty received a petition from the lord visc. Torrington, nephew to the admiral, importing, that himself, and the rest of his afflicted family, being advised that many material things might be offered to their lordships, to shew, that the sentence of the court martial ought not to be executed ; prayed the permission to lay before them by council, to be appointed on behalf of the admiral, such reasons as might be offered for not executing the sentence. In answer to which petition, the lords of the admiralty appointed the next day to receive the reasons in writing, mentioned in the petition.

It being towards the close of the term, the council applied to could not, by reason of their indispensable attendance on the several courts of law and equity, be prepared so soon to advise and assist his lordship and family ; accordingly they presented a second petition, praying an indulgence of a few days longer. But on the 9th of february, the lords of the admiral-

lying over us, and hitting us, that he did not intend to throw his shot away, till he came near the enemy.

Lord Robert Bertie was asked,

Quest. Was you near to the admiral's person before, and during the time of the action, and did you observe his behaviour ?

Answ. I was near him the whole day of the action in general.

Quest. Did you perceive any backwardness in the admiral during the action, or any marks of fear or confusion, either from his countenance or behaviour ?

Answ. No ; he seemed to give his orders coolly and distinctly, and I do not apprehend, that he was in the least wanting in personal courage.

Quest. Did the admiral appear solicitous to engage the enemy, and to assist his majesty's ships, that were engaged with the enemy ?

Answ. Yes.

Quest. Did your lordship on, or after the day of action, hear any murmuring or discontent among the officers or men, upon any supposition, that the admiral had not done his duty ?

Answ. I never heard any one of the Ramillies speak the least disrespectfully of the admiral, or ever hint that the admiral had not done his duty.

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ralty presented a memorial to his majesty, of which the following is an extract :

“ The proceedings of the court martial on admiral Byng, have been reported to us, and we have taken them into our most serious and deliberate consideration, and doubts having arisen, with regard to the legality of the sentence, particularly, whether the crime of negligence, which is not expressed in any part of the proceedings, can, in this case, be supplied by implication, we find ourselves obliged most humbly to beseech your majesty, that the opinion of the judges may be taken, whether the said sentence is legal.”

In consequence of this memorial, his majesty laid the sentence before the judges ; who gave their opinion, that it was a legal sentence ; which opinion being transmitted to the commissioners of the admiralty, they signed a warrant the 16th of february, directed to vice-admiral Boscawen, at Portsmouth, directing him to have the admiral shot, on board what ship he thought proper, on the 28th, by a platoon of marines.

But he was respited for some time ; for on the 26th his majesty sent a message to the house of commons, from which I have made the following extract :

“ Being informed, that a member of the house of commons, who was a member of the court martial, has, in his place, applied to the house, in behalf of himself, and several other members of the said court, praying the aid of parliament, to be released from the oath of secrecy imposed on courts martial, in order to disclose the grounds, whereon sentence of death passed on the said admiral ; the result of which discovery may shew the sentence to be improper ; his majesty has thought fit to respite the execution of the same, in order that there may be an opportunity of knowing, by the separate examination of the mem-

bers of the said court, upon oath, what grounds there is for the above suggestion."

In consequence of this message, a motion was made for bringing in a bill, to release from the obligation of the oath of secrecy, the members of the court martial, pursuant to the exception contained in the said oath; and accordingly the bill was prepared, presented, read, amended, and ordered to be engrossed all in one day. The 28th, it was read the third time and passed, and carried up to the lords for their concurrence; but that house examined the members of the court martial on oath: the principal questions asked them were,

1. Whether you know any matter that passed, previous to the sentence pronounced upon admiral Byng, which may shew that sentence to have been unjust?

Unanimously answered in the negative.

2. Whether you know any matter that passed, previous to the sentence, which may shew that sentence to have been given through any undue practice or motive?

Unanimously answered in the negative.

3. Whether you are desirous, that the bill now under the consideration of the house, for dispensing with the oath of secrecy, should pass into a law?

This and the next question were answered in the negative, by admirals Smith, Holbourn, and Broderick; captains Holmes, Geary, Boys, Simcoe, Douglass, Bentley, and Denis. But admiral Norris, and the captains Moore, and Keppel, answered this question in the affirmative.

4. Whether you are of opinion, that you have any particulars to reveal, relative to the case of, and the sentence passed upon, admiral Byng, which you judge necessary for his majesty's information, and which you think likely to incline his majesty to mercy?

Admiral Norris's answer to this question was, at the time I said I was desirous the act should take place,
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I understood that we should have an opportunity of delivering our particular reasons, for signing the sentence, and letter of recommendation. Capt. Moore's was, I do not think myself at liberty, while I am under this oath to answer that question. Capt. Keppel's was, I think that I cannot answer that question without particularising the reasons for my vote and opinion.

The house as soon as this examination was finished, unanimously rejected the bill: and the sentence was executed on the admiral the 14th.

On this unfortunate affair, concerning which, opinions are so much divided, I shall only observe, that many quote passages in the trial of the admiral which shew, that admiral West, and several of the captains in the van, knew no reason why, Mr. Byng in the rear, should not come to a closer engagement; but this proves only that the admiral was faulty; but does it from thence appear, that this fault proceeded from cowardice or disaffection, might it not as well be attributed to an error in judgment. I have made this remark only in answer to a set of absurd people, who will produce a few answers in the trial to strengthen their argument; but as to regarding the resolutions of the court martial, they will pretend that no confidence is to be placed in them.

It should also be remembered, that Mr. Byng's fleet was sent out to protect or relieve Minorca: Now let it be asked, did those who sent him apprehend, that Minorca could be invaded before his arrival, and the descent covered by a superior squadron, when they sent him out with an inferior one—If they did, their conduct is unjustifiable—If they did not, their ignorance is inexcusable.

It is very plain, from the conduct of the british ministry, that they never expected Mr. Byng could meet with the french squadron; his instructions the least intended fighting of any service. But indeed he was positively assured, before his departure from Eng-

land, by the highest naval authority, that the enemy could not fit out more than six or seven ships of the line at the most. We need only read the admiral's instructions to be convinced, that this was the real opinion of the admiralty; for he is ordered—If on his arrival at Gibraltar, he should hear that a french squadron had passed the Streights, to dispatch admiral West with a superior squadron after them to north America, and repair with the remainder himself to Minorca. By this it is very evident, that the ministry in England did not know the french force; or else, how was Byng to dispatch a superior fleet after them, when the whole fleet he commanded was inferior to them. What epithet shall we bestow on an administration, no better informed of the enemy's motions than this conduct evinces?

But if we consider the whole affair with that attention it deserves, shall we not evidently perceive, that the admiral fell a sacrifice to cover the guilt of others, who were more powerful than himself. Let me ask against whom the fury of the populace would have directed itself, if contrary winds had kept Mr. Byng a week or a fortnight longer at Spithead, or at Gibraltar; and if, at the same time, the french had had a skilful general at their head (for then Blakeney, instead of holding out eight or ten weeks, would not have been able to defend himself three) under those circumstances, it would have been impossible for Mr. Byng, even to have endeavoured any thing; for it would have been taken before he got there. Had this been the case, I say, who would have been the objects of the public rage? Mr. Byng, or those who sent him? It was necessary to throw dust in the eyes of the people; or else, why was the Gazette (a paper supposed to be published by authority) prostituted to spread a false list of the strength of both fleets among the people, not only by undervaluing the enemy's force, of which it is possible the writer might

might be ignorant, but by overrating Mr. Byng's, in which it is impossible he should be innocent. Why was the admiral's letter mangled and curtailed in the manner it appeared in that paper?

To say more on this subject will, I fear, be tedious to the reader. But thus much every honest man will allow, that it was a fatal severity to execute an admiral of a noble family, whose ancestors had rendered such services to the crown, under such an infamous charge, when the very court martial that condemned him, declared him innocent, either of cowardice or disaffection; and for the sake of their own conscience recommended him in the most earnest manner as a fit object for his majesty's clemency,

C H A P. XI.

Changes in the ministry. Naval transactions. Affairs in north America. Earl of Loudon appointed generalissimo. He prepares to attack Louisburg. Affairs in Germany. Situation of the belligerent powers. Motions of the prussian and austrian armies. King of Prussia enters Bohemia. Battle of Richenberg. Battle of Prague. Prague invested. Marshal Daun takes the command of the austrian army. Battle of Collin. King of Prussia retires into Saxony.

NOTHING can be of such great consequence to the welfare of any nation, as to have one settled plan of action (especially in time of war) to direct the steps of those who sit at the helm of affairs. Let great genius's form fine plans of operations; yet if they are not in power long enough to direct their execution, all their schemes will most probably prove abortive. The state of Great-Britain at this conjuncture, was really deplorable; the ministry which had so lately been established, and which the greatest part of the nation wished to see firmly seated in power, could no longer hold their seats. On the 5th of april, Mr. Pitt, by his majesty's command, resigned the office of secretary of state, and Mr. Legge was moved from being chancellor and under-treasurer of the Exchequer; a new commission for the admiralty appeared, with the earl of Winchelsea at their head. The party of the duke of Newcastle, and Mr. Fox, who had been so lately obliged to quit their places, now resumed them. This faction, which was now uppermost, differed very much in their plan of action, from that of the late ministry; their chief characteristic was the great fear they were constantly in, of the overgrown power of France; they thought
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it eligible to bridle this at any rate, but principally by maintaining the ballance of power, which they proposed to effect, by raising up enemies to France, on the continent, with british subsidies, and even by sending over british troops to join the belligerent powers in their alliance. The late ministry's scheme when they were in power was different; they were equally of opinion, that the power of France was to be curbed, but thought the means of doing this, was more natural by our naval power; a conduct which the insular situation of their country dictated to them. It is surprising to find how great a degree of popularity this party possessed in the nation; no sooner were they out of power, than they had the freedoms of almost all the corporations in the kingdom presented to them, in gold boxes, which shewed how much the nation regretted their disgrace at court.

The naval affairs of the two nations were at this period, of but little consequence; the latter end of march and beginning of april, several squadrons were equipping at Portsmouth and Plymouth; one under admiral West, designed for Ireland, in its way to America, consisting of 11 sail of the line, one frigate, a bomb, and a convoy of 50 transports, sailed from St. Hellen's the 16th of april; we had a small squadron at this time in the Downs, and another to the westward, cruising; and admirals West and Broderick had been cruising some time in the bay; but with little success. The french were hard at work in their ports, but sent no squadron to sea.

In north America our affairs had for some time wore the same dismal appearance as they had done from the beginning of the war; but the earl of Loudon, having in the latter end of the year 1756, laid before the ministry a plan for carrying on the war in that country, and which being approved of, his lordship was named by his majesty to command there in chief; better success was expected for the future,
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especially as a large body of troops was sent over to reinforce the army there. The plan his lordship was desirous to have executed, was the conquest of Cape Breton, and after that to proceed towards bringing all Canada under subjection, by the conquest of Quebec. To facilitate the undertaking this scheme, the transports with troops from England, arrived at New York, in january 1757. Lord Loudon finding the men much fatigued with the hardships of a long voyage billeted them, by reason of their number, indiscriminately on public and private houses ; this occasioned a great heat between the magistrates and his lordship, who asked them, if they thought that men who had suffered a long winter's voyage, to come to their defence, were to perish in the streets for want of proper accommodations ; and also, whether they thought that the indians would stand upon rights and privileges, if these men were ordered back, and they were to come in their room. After some ferment the billeting took place, as it certainly was a necessary measure.

As soon as his lordship heard that the transports were arrived, he assembled the governors of the several neighbouring colonies, to consult with them on the means of protecting their frontiers, during his absence on the expedition ; nothing was required of them, but to remain on the defensive : and accordingly the plan was settled with the number of troops which each colony was to furnish, and their destination fixed. Having dismissed them, his excellency left Philadelphia the 27th of march, having stayed there ten days. But before I proceed, it is necessary to take notice of a general embargo which lord London laid on all outward bound ships : his lordship thought this was the most likely way to hinder the enemy from getting any intelligence of his designs ; and also, that the transports would then the more easily find men to navigate them. The embargo

bargo might certainly be productive of those good consequences; but as it was detrimental to the interests of many private people, particularly the merchants, it occasioned a great clamour; for at that time corn was excessively scarce in England, owing in part to a bad crop the last year, and the infamous villainy of the farmers, many of whom kept up large quantities in expectation of a higher price, when the poor were starving round about them; the merchants in England wrote over to those in America, to ship off large quantities for them, as there was plenty in the colonies, they accordingly did; but before the vessels could sail, the embargo took place: it occasioned so much disgust in England and the plantations, that an express was afterwards sent to put it out of the power of the commanders to embargo vessels for Great Britain or Ireland. Although the embargo was of some use, yet, as lord Loudon must know how pressing the wants of England were for corn, it has been thought by many, a bad step, although he had the full authority to do it.

During the month of april, his lordship was employed in preparing the transports at Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, those for the two former amounting to 90 sail. On the 5th of may, being all met at New York, they received orders to be in readiness to embark the forces; and sir Charles Hardy, governor of the place, having received his majesty's commission as rear admiral of the blue, hoisted his flag on board the Nightingale. It was now about the time, when they expected admiral Holbourn's fleet at Hallifax; but the commander in chief was very impatient that the men might embark, at last he ordered that service to be performed, which was done between the 22d and 25th, and then sailed down to Sandy Hook, where they came to an anchor. On the 5th of June, his excellency embarked on board the Sutherland, but determined not to sail with-
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out further intelligence, because he had learned before he left New York, from the prisoners of some french prizes, that they were part of a french merchant fleet, under a convoy of five ships of the line, designed for Louisburg. This intelligence was confirmed by an exprefs from Boston, informing, that five french men of war and a frigate had been seen cruising off Halifax. It was impossible to proceed to that port with the transports, while so considerable a force was in their road, and yet to remain any longer at New York, would be losing so much time, that the expedition against Louisburg would become very uncertain; his lordship therefore dispatched two men of war to view the coast, and see if they could hear any thing of the french fleet: they soon after returned, but had seen nothing; lord Loudon then finding that to wait any longer, would almost put it out of his power to do any thing that campaign, ventured to sail from New York, with the transports. This was the critical time as it were, on which depended the fate of all our schemes, for had the french fell in with the transports, the consequences would certainly have been dreadful; so that all depended on admiral Holbourn's being arrived, and by that means having the coast clear, or else lord Loudon's escaping the enemy; however, he arrived safe at Halifax the 30th, his lordship would never have run so great a risk, had had it not been for saving time, which became so exceeding precious, on account of the fleet's not arriving from England, till so late in the season. The forces were soon landed, and encamped at Halifax; but as the ground was rough and incumbered, they were employed in making a parade for exercises and reviews; and a large garden for furnishing vegetables for the sick and wounded that might happen to be sent home from the siege, in case the intended expedition should take place: parties of rangers were also sent to patrolle in the woods, and several prime sailing

ing vessels were dispatched to look into the harbour of Louisburg, and to make what discoveries they were able; in short, the general took all possible methods in his power at this interval, to keep the troops properly employed, and to gain the necessary intelligence of the strength of the enemy. At last admiral Holbourn, with the fleet and forces from England, arrived at Halifax in the second week in july, having been waited for with the utmost impatience by lord Loudon; and where I shall leave them for the present, and return to lay before the reader what had been transacting in Europe.

The war in America, and by sea, was at this time of but little eclat; it was in Germany only, where those great actions which surprise mankind were performed: at the close of the preceding campaign, the king of Prussia had made the saxon army prisoners, and took up his winter quarters in the heart of Saxony. That monarch was threatened with the immense number of enemies which he expected would attack him this campaign; nor were his expectations groundless, for the queen of Hungary having found by the battle of Lowoschutz, that she had to deal with an enemy truly formidable, resolved to have more powerful forces against him this campaign; she accordingly assembled an army of 100,000 men, in Bohemia, under the command of prince Charles of Lorrain, assisted by marshal Brown; nor did the empress trust entirely to her own preparations; during the preceding winter the process in the emperor's aulic council was continued against the king of Prussia; and also in the diet of the empire. We may easily conceive with how much impartiality and justice the proceedings in this court were carried on, when those who feared the king of Prussia were glad of an opportunity to humble him, and when the greatest number of them were awed by the power of the house of Austria. His prussian majesty was condemned for his pretended

tended obstinacy; and the fiscal had orders to notify to him, that he was put under the ban of the empire, and adjudged fallen from all the dignities and possessions which he held under it. The circles of the empire were ordered to furnish their contingents of men and money, to put this sentence in execution; but these were collected very slowly, the troops were badly composed, and most probably they would never have been able to act, if it had not been for the assistance they received from France. The inveteracy of her hungarian majesty did not stop here, she made requisitions to her allies for the assistance they were obliged by treaty to furnish her with. The czarina had prepared a great army of 60,000 men, under the command of marshal Apraxin, who had began their march in the winter through Lithuania, to attack ducal Prussia, and equipped a strong fleet in the Baltic, to co-operate with her land forces. The french resolving to convince the empress queen how advantageous to her, her connection with the house of Bourbon would be; formed two great armies, which had been drawing together for a considerable time; the first was composed of 80,000 troops, under the command of marshal de Estrees, which was designed against the king of Prussia's Westphalian dominions, in quality of allies to the empress queen, and guardians of the liberties of Germany, and to no other intent, as they pretended; but it was really designed to reduce Hanover also. The other french army was commanded by the prince de Soubise, consisting of about 25,000 men; and was designed to strengthen the army of the empire. These were not the only enemies of the king of Prussia: the king of Sweden, though allied both in blood and inclination to his prussian majesty, was yet obliged by the senate to send troops against him; they were inspired with the hopes of recovering their ancient possessions in Germany, and what made them
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push the design of making war against that monarch the more briskly, was the subsidies of french gold which circulated amongst them plentifully. The duke of Mecklenburg also declared, that he would join the swedish army with 6000 men ; for which conduct he has since paid very severely.

This was the state of the enemies of the king of Prussia, a mighty confederacy, consisting of five of the most powerful kingdoms in Europe ; let us next see the measures which that monarch took to save himself from being crushed with their numerous forces.

The russians had brought no forage with them, trusting to what they should find in their march through Poland ; but his prussian majesty, who was informed of the condition of his enemy, bought up all the corn and forage in their march towards Prussia, which put them to inconceivable difficulties, and retarded their march extremely ; it certainly was a fine stroke of the king of Prussia to distress them. His majesty appointed general Lehwald to command an army of 30,000 men against Apraxin. But it was against the austrians that the greatest efforts were to be made ; his prussian majesty commanded one army himself, in Saxony ; the prince of Bevern another in Lusatia ; and marshal Schwerin, a third in Silesia.

But before his majesty made the grand attack upon Bohemia, he took the wisest measures in Saxony, in case of bad success in his expedition against the austrians. New works were added to the old ones at Dresden, and the greatest diligence used to put it in a respectable posture of defence ; all the burghers were disarmed, and their arms deposited in the arsenal. The austrian detachments began in april to appear on the frontiers of Saxony, to observe the motions of the prussians, but many of them were taken prisoners ; these trifling matters did not take off the attention of the prussians ; every thing was preparing with

with the greatest expedition to begin the campaign, and troops were in motion throughout Saxony, Voigtland, and Lusatia.

About the middle of april, three great bodies of his prussian majesty's troops entered Bohemia by different routs. Marshal Schwerin penetrated into it from Silesia, through the county of Glatz, on the 18th, at the head of 50,000 men. His highness the duke of Bevern did the same, from Zittau in Lusatia the 20th, entering Bohemia at Graenstein, taking the rout of Reichenberg. His majesty himself, at the head of a third army, marched towards Egra. The austrians imagined, that his prussian majesty had some distinct plan of action, independent of his other armies, and accordingly prince Charles detached 20,000 men, under the command of the duke d'Aremberg, to watch his motions.

The march of the prince of Bevern soon brought on an action; in his march towards Reichenberg, he drove away the enemy from all their posts. The same morning, a party of his hussars defeated some hundred of austrians, commanded by prince Lichtenstein, who were posted before Kohlig. The 21st at break of day, the prussians marched in two columns by Habendorf, towards the austrian army, posted near Reichenberg, 28,000 strong, and commanded by count Konigseg; as soon as the prussian lines were formed, they marched towards their enemy's cavalry, which was ranged in three lines, of about 30 squadrons, their two wings were sustained by the infantry, which was posted among felled trees and entrenchments. The prussians immediately cannonaded the austrian cavalry, who received it bravely, having on their right a village, and on their left a wood, where they had entrenched themselves with felled trees and pits. But the prince of Bevern having caused 15 squadrons of dragoons of his second line to advance, and ordered the wood on his right to be attacked by
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some battalions of grenadiers, entirely routed the enemy's cavalry: the generals Norman, Katt, and the prince of Wurtemberg signalizing themselves extremely. The prussian hussars distinguished themselves by the warm reception they gave the austrian horse grenadiers; notwithstanding their artillery took them in flank. Lieut. gen. Lestewitz, at the same time attacked with the prussian left wing, the enemy's redoubts, which covered Reichenberg; though there were many defiles and rising grounds to pass, which were all occupied by the enemy; yet the regiment of Darmstadt forced the redoubt, and put to flight, and pursued the austrians, after some discharges of their artillery and small arms, from one eminence to another, for the distance of a mile, as far as Rochlitz and Dorffel. In short, the prussians gained a complete victory; the battle began at six o'clock in the morning, and continued till eleven. His highness the duke of Bevern, shewed great courage and military skill. The loss of the austrians was considerable; three standards were taken, and all their cannon and ammunition waggons.

Nor was marshal Schwerin less successful. He entered Bohemia with his troops in five columns, driving the austrians before him, as he passed the defiles, marching with incredible celerity, he reached Konigshoff on the Elbe, the 20th. At Trautenau, two austrian generals, and the princes Xavier and Charles of Saxony narrowly escaped falling into his hands. He made himself master of the circle of Buntlau without opposition, seizing a great magazine of corn and meal, belonging to the austrian army. He soon after joined his body of troops to those of the prince of Bevern, who, after the battle of Reichenberg, had advanced towards Prague, by the king's orders.

I left his majesty himself near Egra, opposed by the duke of Aremberg, with 20,000 men; by a masterly stroke of generalship, he made a movement

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to the left, which cut off all communication between d'Aremberg's detachment, and the main army of the austrians; and pushing his advantage, he advanced with prodigious expedition towards Prague, where he joined marshal Schwerin, and the prince of Bevern.

Prince Charles of Lorrain's army consisted of about 95,000 men, being joined by an army from Moravia, the remains of that corps which was beat by the prince of Bevern, and by several regiments of the garrison of Prague. It had taken post on the banks of the Moldau, near that city, in a camp almost inaccessible, with his left wing inclining to the mountain of Zischau, and his right towards Sterboholi, where he waited on the hill the approach of the prussian army. But the king, who had passed the Moldau, with design to attack them, resolved to turn the enemy's camp; for which purpose, his army defiled by Potschernitz, towards the left, which count Brown perceiving, defiled by his right, to avoid being taken in flank. The prussians marched beyond Bichowitz, traversing defiles and morasses, which separated their infantry a little: this infantry having made its attack too precipitately, was the first time repulsed; but they made a fresh attack, and forced the enemy on the right. The prussian cavalry on the left, after three charges obliged the austrian cavalry on the right of their army to fly. The prussian centre routed the infantry, and pushed quite through the austrian camp. The left of the prussian army then marched directly towards Michelly, where it was joined by the cavalry and cut off the austrian army, whose right was running away towards Saszawa. The right of the prussians immediately attacked the left of general Brown, and successively seized on three batteries on different eminences. From every advantage of situation the ardour of the prussians in this battle drove the enemy, encouraged by the presence of their sovereign, and filled with a noble enthusiasm of bravery, which generally ensures success. The silesian army, which
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was lead to action by marshal Schwerin, had a very rude shock to sustain; having morasses to pass, precipices to climb, and batteries to face, nothing but the presence of the king could have animated his troops in general to have performed such prodigies of valour. Some regiments of prussian horse, in the beginning of the action, suffered severely. The foot had still greater difficulties to surmount than the horse; many generals followed the example of the first field marshal, by dismounting, and leading their regiments sword in hand, through marshes, over precipices, and and across 1000 fires. It was here that the brave marshal Schwerin was killed, at the head of his regiment, with the colonel's standard in his hand: The loss of so experienced a soldier, was almost a balance to a victory; yet the enemy also suffered a great loss, in the death of marshal Brown, who was wounded, but not mortally, had not his regret made his wound fatal. Never was victory more complete than this of Prague; 40,000 of the enemy threw themselves into that city, and the rest fled towards Benneschau; a vast number was slain, and near 10,000 taken prisoners; the camp, military chest, 250 cannon, and all the trophies of the completest victory fell into the hands of the conquerors. This famous battle was fought the 6th of may.

His prussian majesty having gained so decisive a victory, convinced the world that he knew how to improve it: he instantly invested Prague, and an army within its walls: the king divided his forces into two bodies, marshal Keith commanded one, which invested the little town on this side the Moldau; and the king in person with the other, blocked up the old city, on the other side the river. As it was defended by a complete army, it was impossible to take it by assault; yet the immense garrison made it probable, that famine would oblige them to surrender; but the king of Prussia resolved not to

trust solely even to this, but made great preparations to bombard the city ; the redoubts and batteries being in good forwardness by the 23d of may, the austrians made a well conducted and desperate sally with 10,000 men : they attacked a battery which was not finished, but were repulsed several times, the action lasting three hours ; but at day break they retired into the city, in some confusion, not being able to make any impression on the prussian posts ; their design was, also to have burnt the bridges of communication on the Moldau. His highness the prince of Bevern commanded, during the siege, an army of 20,000 men to cover it. On the 29th of may, at night, after a most dreadful storm of rain and thunder, on the signal of a rocket, four batteries, which discharged every 24 hours, 288 bombs, besides a vast multitude of red hot cannon balls, began to pour destruction on that unfortunate city, which was soon in flames in every part ; we may conceive the horrors that reigned in Prague, from this bombardment, when 12,000 horses without forage were ranged in the streets and squares. This terrible bombardment continued without intermission : on the 10th of june, a red hot cannon ball set the city on fire near the Moldau, burnt five hours, and entirely consumed the second quarter of the new city. In the evening the fire broke out again, and the wind blowing hard, spread very fast, levelling every thing for several hundred yards. The bombardment continued incessantly night and day, so that the fire was no sooner quenched in one part, than it broke out in another ; the besiegers often seeing it burning in seven or eight places at once. The principal magistrates, burghers, and clergy, seeing their city on the point of being reduced to an heap of rubbish, made the most moving supplications to the commander to listen to terms. But he was deaf to their prayers, and hanged up two of their senators, who were more importunate than

than the rest. On the 6th of june, 12,000 useless mouths were driven out of the city; and the prussians forced them in again. The fury of the bombardment continued, and it was thought that the city could not hold out much longer. Let us here for a moment consider the situation of the affairs of the empress queen. By gaining two battles, her enemy was in possession of half Bohemia; a whole army, and the capital of that kingdom was on the point of surrendering to him; to conclude all, her remaining troops were terrified with former defeats. Such was the state of her affairs, when a general, till then unknown, began to turn the fortune of the war.

This was Leopold count Daun, who never had commanded in chief before. One thing remarkable concerning him, was, that although he was of a very noble family, yet his rise in the imperial service was owing merely to his merit, without being obliged to any court favour for his promotions. He had gained experience in various parts of Europe, under the greatest generals, and in the most illustrious scenes of action.

This commander had for some time been collecting the scattered remains of the austrian army; and brought them within a few miles of Prague, always taking care to encamp on such inaccessible eminences, that it was impossible to attack him; at the same time, he made several false attacks on the outward posts of the prussians, with his hussars, which were opposed by detachments from the prince of Bevern's army. At last marshal Daun drew into the important camp at Colin, with design to embarrass the prussians. The king knowing how much that situation would accomplish Daun's designs, fearing that he would cut off the prince of Bevern's communication with the army round Prague, and hearing that he was actually near 60,000 strong, resolved to dislodge him; with

this intention, he left the camp before Prague, the 13th of june, to take the command of that corps, in his road he was joined by several detachments, so that the whole number of his army was about 32,000 men. On the 18th, about three in the afternoon, his majesty attacked the austrians, so much superior in numbers to his own troops, and entrenched in one of the most advantageous situations that could be chosen, defended by an immense artillery. Let it be sufficient to say, that the king of Prussia did every thing on this occasion, that the most impetuous and best regulated courage, assisted by that noble emulation, inspired by the remembrance of so many victories, could suggest. The prussians returned to the attack seven times, and never fought with greater bravery. Both the king's brothers were in the field, and did every thing that could be expected from them. At last his majesty, at the head of his cavalry, made one furious and concluding charge; but all was unsuccessful. In short, his majesty was obliged to draw off his troops; having suffered very severely in the action, but more so from desertions, and all the ill consequences of a defeat. We must attribute the loss of this battle to the want of infantry and artillery, and fighting on a ground, where the foot could not be sustained by the horse; besides these, the advantageous situation of the enemy, so much more numerous than the prussians, their vast artillery, the great bravery they shewed in the action, and the courage and skill of marshal Daun, all conspired to render the great efforts of the prussians useless*.

* Soon after this battle, his prussian majesty wrote the following billet to one of his generals:

" I have no reason to complain of the bravery of my troops, or the experience of my officers. I alone was in the fault, and I hope to repair it." This noble and candid manner of owning his faults, raised the king's character as an hero more than ever.

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Although the king of Prussia was defeated, yet his troops retired in excellent order and unpursued. His majesty was obliged to raise the siege of Prague directly; marshal Keith decamped from his side the 20th, and the whole army prepared with expedition to retire into Saxony. By the 16th of July the prussian army was encamped at Leitmaritz, and the head quarters of the austrians at Nismes; the prussian army were masters of the Elbe. On the 21st he quitted this camp, crossed the Elbe, and encamped at Lowositz; in its way to Linai; the 24th, he took post at Nollendorf, leaving marshal Keith at the head of 25,000 men, to guard the passes that lead from Bohemia to Saxony. During the retreat of the prussian army, their rear and out parties were continually infested with the austrians; but suffered little from them. The 26th, the king and his brother prince Henry arrived with the army in the neighbourhood of Pirna, where they encamped. The prince of Prussia had retreated into Lusatia with another part of the army. The austrians followed him, and the latter end of July, laid the town of Zittau in ashes, by a dreadful bombardment; obliging the garrison to surrender. The prince of Prussia was then in danger of being surrounded by the enemy, who were increasing in Lusatia every day; but to prevent this, his prussian majesty left the camp near Pirna, the beginning of August, crossed the Elbe, and marched with part of his army to his assistance, leaving the remainder under marshal Keith, to guard the passes of the mountains of Bohemia. By making this forced march, the prince's army was relieved, and the austrians obliged to retire to their posts on the right: here I shall leave his majesty for the present.

The battle of Colin was fought at a most critical moment. The king, who before that expected to be master of Prague, and all Bohemia, in a few days,

was obliged to raise the siege with loss, and was driven out of that kingdom, which, a little time before he expected to conquer. Had his majesty only continued the siege with vigor, and let the prince of Bevern have watched Daun; or, had he but taken a more numerous army to fight him, how different a face would this campaign have wore.

CHAP.

C H A P. XII.

Motions of the French. Their army pass the Rhine and Weser. Army of observation marches. Battle of Hastenbeck. Convention of Closter-seven. Russians enter Prussia. Battle of Norkitten. King of Prussia marches into Lusatia. Offers the austrians battle. Marches into Saxony. Austrians attack general Winterfeldt. Swedes enter Pomerania. General Haddick lays Berlin under contribution. Russians retire. Swedes retire. Schweidnitz taken. Battle of Breslau. Breslau taken. Bad state of the king of Prussia's affairs.

I Observed before, that the french court had resolved to send two armies into Germany, in quality of allies to the empress queen. The principal one was really designed against the electorate of Hanover, consisting of 80,000 of the choicest troops of France, commanded by marshal de Estrees, having under him M. de Contades, Mr. Chevert, and the count de St. Germain, officers of reputation; Munster was fixed upon for the head quarters, and the army was in full march in the latter end of april, when it crossed the Rhine. The other body of french troops was commanded by the prince de Soubise, which, as I before said, was designed to strengthen the army of the empire. But before it passed the Rhine, it made itself master of Cleves, Meurs, and Guelders, belonging to the king of Prussia, laying the country under heavy contributions. In the mean time, the army under marshal de Estrees continued its rout by slow marches towards the electorate of Hanover; and to oppose him, the army of observation, which his britannic majesty raised, commanded by his royal highness the duke of Cumberland, was assembled by the beginning of may, and consisted of about 40,000
hanoverians,

hanoverians, and hessians; the part of Westphalia between the Rhine and the Weser is rough and barren, and very difficult to subsist an army in, especially such a one as d'Estrees's, which was encumbered with a vast quantity of baggage, and a multitude of useless mouths. The duke of Cumberland threw all the obstacles in his way that was possible, but they were overcome by the abilities of the french general; who, by his superiority of numbers, obliged the duke to pass the Weser, and passed it after him the beginning of july. D'Estrees was no sooner on the other side of the Weser, than he laid all the neighbouring states and country under excessive contributions: the land-graviate of Hesse Cassel was the first that suffered. Minden on the Weser, and Gottingen on the Leine, received french garrisons, without opposition. The french general, from his camp at Stadt-Oldendorf, sent to the regency of Hanover a requisition, dated the 21st of july, demanding, that deputies should be sent to their head quarters, to treat about contributions, &c. About this time, the duke of Cumberland, who was encamped near Hamelen, marched from thence by Vorenburg, and Hastenbeck towards Halle; and the better to observe the motions of the enemy, and if possible, to stop their progress; his royal highness, on the 19th of july, detached lieut. general Zastrow, with 12,000 men, to seize the important pass of Stadt-Oldendorf; but he came too late, the french being already in possession of it: Zastrow then by a forced march rejoined the duke's army, at Latford, on the Weser. On the 20th, d'Estrees advanced with his whole army into the fine plain at Stadt-Oldendorf; and the next day encamped at Halle; on the 24th, the french drove the hanoverian parties from the village of Latford; and the duke perceiving it was the intention of the enemy to attack him, drew up his army on the height between the Weser and the woods, with his right towards that river, and his left close to the

the wood, the village of Hastenbeck being in his front. In the evening he withdrew all his out posts, and the army laid on their arms all night. The 25th in the morning, the enemy appeared, marching in columns, as if they intended to attack the hanoverians, and cannonaded them very severely the whole day, with an artillery much superior to the duke's: that night the army also laid on their arms. At five the next morning, the cannonade began again, with great fury, upon a hanoverian battery, supported by the hessian infantry and cavalry, who stood the brunt of the fire with incredible bravery, and steadiness. At seven in the evening, the firing of small arms began on the hanoverian left; the cannonading continuing for 6 hours, all the while without intermission. The duke had placed some grenadiers in the wood, who finding that great numbers of the enemies troops were marching about them, retired and joined the left of the army, on which the french possessed themselves of the hanoverian battery on the left, without opposition. It was here that the hereditary prince of Brunswic distinguished himself, by attacking and repulsing a superior force of the enemy, and retaking the battery. The french being in possession of a height that flanked both the duke's lines of infantry, he ordered the army to retreat, which was done in good order, to Hamelen. It was confidently said, that his royal highness had won the battle, but did not know it; thus far is certain, that the french who marched into the woods of Lauenstein, were seized with a panic, supposing they were ready to be attacked by the hanoverians, and fired on one another; and if their consternation had been known, and a well regulated attack had been made on that part of their army, it would probably have been defeated. It was asserted positively, that de Estrees had word brought him from all quarters, that the enemy appeared on the right and left, and were going

going to flank him, which determined him to alter his disposition.

The duke of Cumberland, from Hamelen, retreated to Hoya, where he encamped; but moved to Verden, on the 12th of august. On the 6th of that month, marshal d'Estrees resigned his command, to marshal duke de Richelieu, who superseded him, by means of madam de Pompadour's interest with the king of France. Richelieu advanced fast upon the hanoverians; the duke of Cumberland retreated towards Stade: and Bremen opened its gates to the conqueror. By the beginning of september, the duke was encamped under the cannon of Stade.

By his royal highness's retreating after the battle of Hastenbeck, into the dutchy of Bremen, he was cooped up without a possibility of escaping from the french, unless there had been a fleet of ships ready at Stade, to have embarked his army for England, where they would have done no good; but if the duke had retired towards Magdeburg, his army would have been of great service to the cause, by joining the troops of the king of Prussia, and once more opposing the french; for it was to be expected, that they would not content themselves with the possession of Hanover, but would march against the king of Prussia, as soon as possible. The plan which his royal highness followed, had very different consequences. Under the mediation of the king of Denmark, the remarkable convention of Closter-Seven was signed, the 8th of september, by which 38,000 hanoverians laid down their arms, and had quarters assigned them by the french general, in, and round about Stade, out of which they were not to move. The troops of Hesse, Brunswic*, and Saxe-Gotha, were sent back to their respective countries, and disposed of as it was agreed between their sovereigns, and the king of France.

* Vide appendix.

History;

History, I believe, can hardly produce a case parallel to this. That an army of above 40,000 should, by a convention, and without fighting, lay down their arms, and become prisoners of war, (only under a different name) is really to me astonishing. All the remarks I shall add on this unaccountable affair are, that the king of Prussia this campaign, with 32,000 men attacked marshal Daun with 60,000 and fought that desperate battle I have before spoke of: with 25,000 the same monarch afterwards gained the battle of Rosbach, against 50,000 french, &c. and lastly, the battle of Minden was gained by 40,000 men against 95,000 french. So much depends on the commander of an army! But to quote more instances of this nature would be tedious; his royal highness the duke's abilities have before been displayed in the plains of Fontenoy, more conspicuously than it is in my power to paint them.

The french army having thus gloriously ended the campaign in Hanover. Marshal Richelieu marched his troops towards the dominions of the king of Prussia. I before observed, that besides this army, the french sent another into Germany, under the prince de Soubise; which joined the troops of the empire, and were in full march to attack the king of Prussia. I shall leave the operations of these two armies for the present, and turn towards another quarter, where we shall find new enemies advancing against his prussian majesty.

The russian army of 80,000 men, had been advancing by dilatory marches for some time, under the field marshal Apraxin. They had got no further than Wilna, by the 6th of june, in their way towards Kowno, the general rendezvous. And at the same time, some russian cruisers blocked up the ports of Konigsberg, and Memel. However, in the beginning of july, the russians made themselves masters of Memel; they then divided their forces, one body being

ing commanded by Apraxin himself, and the other by general Fermor. Marshal Lehwald, at the head of about 30,000 prussians, commanded in Prussia; the 14th of july he quitted his camp at Insterburg, and encamped in the neighbourhood of Welaw, with design to cover Konigsberg. The russian general sent numerous detachments over most parts of Prussia, burning and destroying the country with the most horrid barbarity. Lehwald finding himself not strong enough to cover the country, and protect it from the savage enemy, resolved to attack their main army, in its entrenchments; which he did on the 30th of august. The russian army amounting to 80,000 regulars, was entrenched in a most advantageous camp, near Norkitten. It was composed of four lines, each of which was defended by an entrenchment, with a numerous artillery, and batteries placed on all the eminences. Lehwald's army hardly consisted of 30,000 men. The attack began at 5 in the morning, and was carried on with so much vigor, that the prussians entirely broke the whole first line of the enemy, and forced all their batteries. The russian cavalry was routed, and a regiment of grenadiers cut in pieces. But when marshal Lehwald came up to the second entrenchment, seeing that he could not attempt to carry it without exposing his whole army, took the resolution to retire, which he did in excellent order, without the enemy's ever stirring out of their entrenchments to pursue him. The loss of the prussians did not exceed 3000 men; but it was very evident, that the russians must have lost four times as many, although conquerors; the prussians lost 11 pieces of cannon. Lehwald, after the battle, returned to his camp at Welaw; but in a few days changed its position, encamping at Peterstalde. That great general, though defeated, was more formidable, after the battle, to the russians, than they were to him; he maintained his posts, and kept them from advancing.

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In the mean time the king of Prussia was very hard pushed himself. I left him just retired into Saxony, after the unfortuaate battle of Collin. Finding that the austrian army made the greatest efforts towards Lusatia; the prince of Prussia, at the head of his army, had posted himself near Waltersdorf, to cover the country; but, as marshal Daun advanced very briskly towards him, he was in danger of being surrounded: upon which, the king, who was near Dresden with his army, crossed the Elbe, the latter end of july, and advanced to the assistance of the prince his brother, whose army, with this reinforcement, then amounted to 45,000 men; leaving 25,000 men under marshal Keith, at Lenai, on the other side of the Elbe. The king marched to Bautzen, where he joined the prince. By his majesty's orders, marshal Keith marched from Lenai through Dresden, with 20 battalions and 40 squadrons, crossed the Elbe, and joined him at Bautzen, leaving prince Maurice of Anhalt Dessau, with 12 battalions and 10 squadrons encamped at Pirna, to check the incursions of the austrian regulars. The king's army, after the junction with Keith, consisted of 60,000 men, he marched the 30th of july from Bautzen, towards Gorlitz, upon which, the austrians retired from Labau, encamping between Gorlitz and Zittau. The king having made several motions, took post on the 15th of august at Budin. It was here that he had continual advices of the approach of the army of the empire, and the french under Soubise, towards Saxony; as they advanced very fast, he resolved to leave Lusatia, and march his army against them; but as he wanted extremely first to fight the austrians, he endeavoured by all possible means to bring them to a battle; on the 16th, he drew up his army within sight of the austrians. The next day he reconnoitred their situation; and, to leave nothing undone that might bring on an action, he sent general Winterfeldt, with 16,000 men,

men, on the other side of the Neisse, to try to take them in flank. Finding it impossible to draw them to a battle, he suddenly decamped, leaving the prince of Bevern, prince Ferdinand, and general Winterfeldt, with 30,000 men near Gorlitz, to observe the austrians. His majesty took the road to Dresden, where he arrived the 29th, in his way towards Erfurth, with design to fight the french and imperia-
lists.

No sooner was his majesty gone, but the austrians came out of their camp, and began to shew themselves every where. On the 17th of september, 15,000 austrians attacked two battalions of Winterfeldt's army, which they cut in pieces; and, as the general was marching to their assistance, he received a wound of which he soon after died. The loss of so brave a general, was the greatest which the prussians sustained on this occasion. Indeed, the king of Prussia was at this time very hard pressed by his enemies; in the beginning of this month, 22,000 swedes penetrated into prussian Pomerania, and laid the neighbouring country under contribution. Berlin itself was also in danger, from another quarter. General Haddick with a large detachment of troops from the austrian army at Gorlitz, by forced marches pierced through Lusatia, part of Brandenburg, and presented himself before Berlin, on the 16th of october; the next day, the city paid him a contribution of 200,000 crowns, on which he retired precipitately, on hearing that prince Maurice was advancing against him. The prince set out from Torgau the 15th, and arrived at Berlin on the 18th, only one day too late.

The russians, in the mean time, after exercising such barbarities, as would shock humanity to relate them, made a most precipitate retreat out of Prussia; they began their march the 13th of september, leaving their sick and wounded to the amount of near 10,000 men; they gained three marches on Lehwald,
so

so that, although he dispatched prince George of Holstein, with 10,000 men to pursue them, they were got too far. They took their rout through Lithuania, towards Russia. This retreat enabled marshal Lehwald to turn his arms against the swedes; he not only recovered that part of prussian Pomerania which the enemy had conquered; but also, all swedish Pomerania, except the town of Stralsund; leaving their ally, the duke of Mecklenburg, to feel the weight of the prussian arms. This nation did nothing to make them worthy of their warlike ancestors, who had so often been the terror of Germany.

His prussian majesty's affairs wore a more melancholy face in Silesia. The king was no sooner gone into Saxony, than the austrians poured into that province, from all quarters. One body of them had opened the trenches before Schweidnitz the 27th of october; and it did not capitulate before the 11th of november. The prince of Bevern was encamped near Breslau, to watch the motions of prince Charles, with the main army, who was near him. On the taking of Schweidnitz (with a garrison of 4000 men) the army which besieged it, joined prince Charles and marshal Daun, near Breslau, when it was determined to attack the prince of Bevern in his intrenchments, under the walls of that city, which was executed the 22d of november, with a treble superiority of numbers. The prussians sustained their attack with amazing intrepidity. The austrians lost near 20,000 men. A great part of their army had retired from the field of battle, and the rest were preparing to retire; when all at once the prussian generals took the same resolutions. A part of their army had suffered a great deal in the engagement. They became apprehensive of a total defeat, in case their intrenchments should be forced in any part. Accordingly they retired behind the Oder. Soon after the austrians returned, and with amazement saw themselves masters of the

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field

field of battle, which they had but just been obliged to relinquish. There certainly was something very ambiguous in the conduct of the prussian generals in Silesia; the king found the want of old marshal Schwerin more than ever. One thing, to appearance, was very remarkable, and gave rise to a thousand conjectures; the prince of Bevern, two days after the battle, as he was reconnoitring without escort, and attended only by a groom, was taken by an advanced party of croats, a small body of whom had passed the Oder. The austrians immediately improved their victory; their advantage, though very dearly bought, was followed by many others; Breslau capitulated the 24th; and here they found, as at Schweidnitz, vast quantities of provision, ammunition, and money. Almost all Silesia was on the point of falling into their hands. Indeed, the situation of his prussian majesty at this time, was terrible. Part of Prussia laid waste by the brutal ferocity of the russians; part of Pomerania by the swedes: all his westphalian dominions, together with Halberstadt, and part of Magdeburg, in the possession of the french, who were making incursions even into Brandenburg: Berlin itself laid under contributions; Silesia conquered by the austrians; and lastly, Saxony and Lusatia partly eat up by the austrians, and the army of the empire, joined with the french. Such was the state of this monarch's dominions. For the present we must leave him, marching to defend Saxony, against the prince of Soubise.

C H A P. XIII.

Affairs in England. Parliamentary affairs. Transactions at sea. Secret expedition against Rochfort. Miscarries. Court Martial. Affairs in north America. Troops embark for Louisburg. The Expedition laid aside. Holbourn's fleet shattered in a storm. Fort William Henry taken. Affairs in Germany. Battle of Rosbach. King of Prussia marches into Silesia. Battle of Lissau. Breslau taken. Schweidnitz blockaded. Silesia conquered. Prussian and austrian armies go into winter quarters. Violent excesses of the french in Hanover. Hanoverian army resumes its arms. Siege of Harbourg. They go into winter quarters. Recapitulation of the events of the year 1757.

IN the mean time, the english were pluming themselves with the victories of their illustrious ally; they won none themselves. The ministry was disliked, and their administration weak and confused; in short, we must not rank the year 1757 as glorious in the annals of Britain. Several fleets had been ordered out to cruise, in expectation of meeting with french ships; but they were generally unsuccessful: Admiral Boscawen in june, commanded one, which cruised at cape St. Vincent; admiral Townshend arrived from Jamaica, where he had been very successful against the small craft of the french. But these actions are not of any great eclat, nor of any great consequence in themselves. The transactions in the british parliament, were indeed, of more importance. In consequence of several speeches and messages from his majesty, they had at different times, between january

and may, granted his majesty, for the year 1757, upwards of 8,350,000 l. *.

In the month of june, there happened an unexpected change in the english ministry, which will justly be reckoned a remarkable æra, in the english history. A coalition of parties was hardly hoped for; but yet it was brought about. Mr. Pitt was again restored to the office of secretary of state; the duke of Newcastle was placed at the head of the treasury, and Mr. Fox was appointed pay-master of the forces. This arrangement gave very general satisfaction: the nation were sanguine in their hopes of better success in the war, now the violence of parties were extinguished, and the new ministry formed a scheme to gratify this eager desire. It is now time to give some account of it.

As one captain Clerk was returning from Gibraltar, in his way to England, in 1754; he came along the western coast of France. And by the politeness of the governor of Rochefort, was shewn the dock, fortifications, and every thing else in that city. In july, 1757, he was ordered to communicate, to sir John Ligonier, what observations he had made there; he accordingly wrote him an account of the fortifications, representing them so bad, that the ministry resolved to undertake an expedition against it; and were determined in this resolution, on seeing an authentic account of the military force of France, which they also received in july, By this it appeared, that the french army, in the beginning of the war, consisted only of 157,347 men, including militia. In august,

* For the navy	—	—	3,503,940 l.
For the army	—	—	2,398,197
For the hessians	—	—	300,572
For the hanoverians	—	—	74,478
Sundrys	—	—	2,072,813
			<hr/>
			8,350,000

1755,

1755, an augmentation was made of 29,000 foot, and 2500 dragoons. In december following, 5500 horse were further raised. It also appeared by this memorial, that, in july 1757, the whole french army (without reckoning the militia and invalids, which were about 67,000) was under 200,000 men. The islands of Minorca, Corsica, with America, and the West-Indies, took up 30,000 men. Marshal d'Estree's army, if the regiments were complete, would amount to 92,000; Richelieu's to 32,000; a body of 6 or 7000 in garrison at Toulon, Marseilles, &c. By which it appears, that there were 160,000 regular troops employed, 40,000 then remained for garrisons, from Sedan to the frontiers of Switzerland, without speaking of Flanders, and the coast, 20,000 from St. Vallery to Bergue, and 10,000 more from St. Vallery to Bourdeaux.

From this memorial, it appeared to the ministry, that the particular ports on the western coast of France must be very weakly garrisoned. A considerable inducement to undertake the expedition. Sir Edward Hawke received his orders in the beginning of august, and in consequence repaired to Spithead, to collect the shipping together. In the secret instructions to him, and sir John Mordaunt, the general of the land forces, they were directed to make their attack upon Rochfort; and in case it succeeded, or failed, Port l'Orient, or Bourdeaux were next to be considered, as the most important objects of their arms. A camp had been formed in the isle of Wight, ever since the beginning of august, consisting of the old buffs, the king's, Kingsley's, Hume's, Hodson's, Brudenel's, Loudon's, Cornwallis's, Amhurst's, and Bentinck's regiments of foot, containing 700 men each complete, which in all was 7000, with two battalions of marines, and one troop of light horse. These forces were embarked on board 45 transports,

convoeyed by a grand fleet * of men of war. This noble armament sailed the 8th of september. On the 20th, they made the isle of Oleron, in the bay of Biscay, over against Rochfort. The 23d, they came in sight of the little island of Aix, which lies in the mouth of the river, leading up to Rochfort. Capt. Howe, by order of the admiral, in the Magnanime, attacked the fort on this island. Lord B——m, who went a volunteer †, in another ship of the squadron, has since told me, that although the object of Mr. Howe's attack was but inconsiderable, yet his conduct in it was admirable. The french, when he came within gun-shot, fired ineffectually at him; he received their fire, and continued to bear down with the greatest composure, till he dropt his anchors close under the walls of the fort, and then began so terrible and incessant a fire, that his ship seemed to be one continued flame; in about an hour, the governor struck his flag, when the smoak cleared up, and discovered not a fort, but a heap of rubbish.

On the 25th, a council of war was called, by desire of general Mordaunt, to consider of the expedi-

* Consisting of the following ships;

	Guns.		Guns.
Royal George	100	Intrepid	64
Ramilies	90	Medway	64
Neptune	90	Dunkirk	60
Namure	90	Achilles	60
Princess Amelia	80	America	60
Barfleur	80	6 Frigates	
Royal William	84	2 Bombketches	
Magnanime	80	2 Fire ships	
Torbay	74	2 Hospital ships	
Dublin	74	6 Cutters.	
Burford	74		

† This amiable young nobleman, has since attended the army under prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, as a volunteer, in two campaigns. He was taken very ill at the latter end of the first, at Cassel, so that lord Granby desired him not to risk his health by venturing on a second campaign; but his lordship's great bravery, and eager inclination to serve his country, rendered him deaf to all intreaties.

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ency of landing to attack Rochfort, in which it was granted by every body, that landing could be effected; but that the place could not be taken by escalade. The general then desired another, which was held on the 28th, and wherein it was also unanimously agreed, that it was adviseable to land the troops with all possible dispatch. Immediately the disposition was made for the landing, under admiral Broderick, and all the captains; part of the troops were in the boats; when on the 30th, the admiral received a letter from Mr. Broderick, importing, that the generals were come to a resolution not to land that night, but to wait till next morning. Sir Edward Hawke then sent to know of sir John Mordaunt, whether the general officers had any further military operations to propose; that if they had not, he intended to proceed to England with the Squadron without loss of time: in answer to which, sir John informed him, that having TALKED IT OVER with the general officers, they all agreed in returning directly to England; and accordingly, this most formidable armada arrived at St. Hellen's the 6th of october.

Never did there appear so general a discontent, as spread throughout the nation, on the failure of this expedition; it was equalled by nothing, but the ardent expectations of success before the fleet failed. One party threw all the blame on the ministers, who planned the scheme. The other laid all the fault on the commanders, who ought to have executed it. But his majesty, by his warrant of the 1st of november, appointed a board of general officers, to enquire into the causes of the failure of the expedition; they met the 12th, and by their report, assigned several reasons, why the expedition failed; which reasons were so many absolute censures on the conduct of the commander. The general officers were, the duke of Marlborough, lord George Sackville, and gen. Waldgrave.

This determination of the board of enquiry, was far from being satisfactory to his majesty; by another warrant, dated the 3d of december, a general court marshal * was appointed to sit upon the trial of sir John Mordaunt, which met the 14th, and continued sitting till the 20th; when they all unanimously were of opinion, that sir John Mordaunt was not guilty of the charge exhibited against him, and did therefore acquit him.

To determine where the fault of the expedition's failing, really laid, is a matter very difficult. We found, that a board of officers censured the commander, on account of his behaviour, and a court martial acquitted him; the greater number of the publications, (many of them very stupid ones) we read on this affair, the more we shall be perplexed. Thus much, I think seems pretty plain; that the scheme of making a diversion on France, with design to assist the king of Prussia, by drawing the french troops

* And consisted of the following members.

Lieut. general Lord Tyrawley, president.
 Lieut. general Charles lord Cadogan,
 Lieut. general John Guise,
 Lieut. general Richard Onslow,
 Lieut. general Henry Pulteney,
 Lieut. general sir Charles Howard,
 Lieut. general John Huske,
 Lieut. general John lord Delawar,
 Lieut. general James Cholmondeley.
 Major general Maurice Bockland,
 Major general William earl of Panmure,
 Major general William earl of Ancram,
 Major general William earl of Harrington,
 Major general George earl of Albemarle,
 Major general Henry Holmes,
 Major general Alexander Drury,
 Major general John Moystyn,
 Major general Edward Carr.
 Colonel William Kingsley,
 Colonel Alexander Duroure,
 Colonel Bennet Noel.

Charles Gould, deputy judge advocate general.

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out of Germany, was a good one; provided there were not troops enough in every part of that coast, to defend itself. It did not appear that this was not the case at Rochfort; I should also suppose, that the month of September was too late for such an expedition, especially in the boisterous bay of Biscay. In short, the design was not planned in a perfect manner, by the ministry: and we must say the same of the execution; there were some mistakes, which joined to the former, rendered it ineffectual. But the ministry certainly deserved praise in one particular (although in some others, the plan might be defective) in forming a design to employ with advantage our naval force, in an expedition, which, had it succeeded, would have been of great consequence, if not by assisting the king of Prussia, at least in destroying the source of the naval power of France.

The operations of the british arms in north America were not more brilliant. I left admiral Holbourn just arrived at Hallifax, in the beginning of july, from England with a grand fleet*, and lord

* Consisting of the following ships, including those which were in north America, viz. one ship of the line, and 12 frigates.

Ships.	Men.	Guns.	Ships.	Men.	Guns.
Newark	700	80	Port Mahon	150	22
Invincible	700	74	Nightingale	150	22
Grafton	590	68	Kennington	150	20
Terrible	630	74	Elphingham	150	20
Northumberland	520	68	Ferrit sloop	120	16
Captain	580	68	Furnace bomb	100	16
Orford	520	68	—— ditto	100	16
Bedford	480	64	Vulture sloop	100	14
Nassau	480	64	Hunter	100	14
Sunderland	400	64	Speedwell	90	12
Defiance	400	64	Hawke	100	12
Tilbury	400	64	Gibraltar's prize	80	12
Kingston	400	60	Jamaica	100	14
Windfor	350	54	Lightning fire ship	50	
Sutherland	306	50			
Winchelsea	160	24			
Success	150	22			
				10,200	1350

Loudon

Loudon waiting there for him with great impatience? The armament consisted of 17 ships of the line, 14 frigates and sloops, two bombs, one fire ship, with 179 transports, making 18,000 tons english ships, and 15,616 north american; 100 pieces of brass cannon, in 10 large ships, horses, steers, &c. in four others, and several more loaded with facines, gabions, &c. The army consisted of 15 regiments, 500 men of the train, 500 rangers, and 100 carpenters, making all 11,000 effective land forces. The first thing which the commander did, was to dispatch some vessels for intelligence of the enemy's situation and strength. And in the mean time, the troops were exercised in attacking a sham fort, according to the rules of war, lord Loudon very rightly judging, that this was a proper employment for them till he sailed *.

When the vessels returned, they brought advice of a fleet's being arrived at Louisburgh; and, on the 4th of august, a french prize was brought into Halifax, by whose papers it appeared, that there were then in the harbour, 17 sail of the line, 12 frigates, 4000 regulars, besides 3000 belonging to the garrison. This news immediately suspended the preparations which had been made to embark. Councils of war were held one after another. The result of the whole was that as the place was so well reinforced, the french fleet superior to ours, and the season so far advanced, it was most prudent to defer the enterprize till a more favourable opportunity. I do not see any great reason to find fault with this determination, considering the circumstances abovementioned, although it was much found fault with in England. Lord Loudon returned to New York, and the admiral set sail for Louisburg,

* It was on this account, that lord Charles Hay condemned lord Loudon's conduct, as " Keeping the courage of his majesty's soldiers at bay, and expending the nation's wealth, in making sham fights, and planting cabbages." For which he was, with the advice of a council of war, ordered under arrest.

in hopes to bring the french fleet to a battle ; but with what reason, he should suppose, that they would hazard one, I know not, as their only business was to protect the town. The english squadron stayed off the harbour, till the 25th of september, when they were shattered in a most terrible storm, in which one of our ships was lost, eleven dismasted, and the rest returned to England in a very bad condition.

This was the end of the expedition against Louisburg ; in which so great a force was so ineffectually used : we attribute the bad success to the long delay of Holbourn's fleet in England, it ought certainly to have been ready to sail sooner, and then so much would not have depended upon the wind and weather. Lord Loudon's conduct has been very much blamed, with what reason, I confess, I cannot see.

The reader may remember, that before general Johnson's victory over the french, there was built a fort, called William Henry, on the south edge of lake George, in order to command that lake, and cover our frontiers. The fort was strong at present, garrisoned by 2500 men ; and general Webb with 4000 men was posted at no great distance. The french, when they were informed that lord Loudon was gone on the Louisburg expedition, made great preparations to attack this fort ; the marquis de Montcalm brought against it 8000 regulars and indians, with a very good artillery to besiege it in form. It is here necessary to enquire, whether Montcalm could do all this so near Crown Point, without general Webb's knowing it. If he was not informed of it, where were his scouts, so necessary in that country : if he was informed of it, which is the common opinion, why did he not collect the neighbouring militia, and put the fort in the best posture of defence, he would have been of equal, perhaps superior force to the french ; but this not being done, the consequences were, that the french after a six days siege, took the fort the 9th of august ;

gust; it surrendering by the advice of general Webb. The garrison marched out with their arms, and engaged not to serve during 18 months; the french savages paid no regard to the capitulation; but committed a thousand outrageous barbarities. And all was suffered by 2000 men, with arms in their hands, against a disorderly crew of barbarians. The enemy having demolished the fort, carried off every thing with the vessels on the lake, departing without making any further attempts. There is such an intricate darkness in this affair, that were it cleared up, I fear a stain would somewhere be discovered. This was the end of our third campaign in north America, we had actually near 20,000 regular troops, and a navy of upwards of 20 ships of the line, and yet our forts were taken from us, and our indian allies left defenceless, to the mercy of the enemy; and without our doing any one action, that could repay us for all this load of bad success and dishonour.

It is in Germany only we must look for more brilliant and decisive actions. I left his prussian majesty returning from Lusatia, in his way to Saxony, with design to fight the imperialists and french, who were advancing towards Misnia. His majesty reached Erfurth, the 14th of september, by the rout of Pegau, Naumburg, Frankenau, Buttlesstadt; from Erfurth, the king detached prince Ferdinand of Brunswick with seven battalions and ten squadrons, and some artillery, towards Halberstadt; to watch the motions of marshal Richelieu's army. The combined army left Erfurth the 11th, on the approach of the prussians, and retired to Eisenach, where they were encamped during the king of Prussia's stay at Erfurth; but being reinforced considerably, they then advanced, and his majesty retired in his turn: the reason of which was, he wanted to fight them as near Misna, and as deep in the winter as he could, because, if he was victorious, a defeat at that season, would disenable his enemy

enemy from acting any more, at least that year. On the contrary, if he failed, Saxony was at hand for him to retire into, and which the enemy could make little impression on in winter. On the 28th, he marched back to Buttlestadt; on which the combined army fixed their quarters at Gotha. His prussian majesty finding that the enemy advanced with speed, thought it time to fight them: he took that resolution the 24th of october, when his army happened to be divided into several corps, some of them at the distance of 20 leagues asunder. Marshal Keith was in Leipfick with seven battalions, and his majesty, on being informed that the enemy were marching directly towards that city, collected his whole army together, with such expedition, that it was united by the 27th, remaining at Leipfick the 28th and 29th; it was then imagined, that the battle would be fought on the plains of Lutzen. On the 30th, the king drew nigh that place; and passed the Sala with his army at Weiffenfels, Merseburg, and Halle, and joined again the 3d, over against the enemy. On the 5th, intelligence was brought the king, that the combined army was in motion; in short, the two armies met at the village of Rosbach. The latter was commanded by the prince of Saxe Hilburghausen, and Soubise, and consisted of 50,000 men complete. The prussians did not amount to 25,000*.

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* Just before the battle began, which was to decide the fate of so many nations, the king of Prussia addressed his troops in the following words:

“ My dear friends, the hour is come, in which all that is, and all that ought to be dear to us, depends upon the swords which are now drawn for the battle. Time permits me to say but little: nor is there occasion to say much. You know that there is no labour, no hunger, no cold, no watching, no danger, that I have not shared with you hitherto; and you now see me ready to lay down my life with you, and for you. All I ask is the same pledge
of

His prussian majesty had determined to make the attack with one wing only, and the disposition of the enemy made it necessary, that it should be the left wing. All the cavalry of his right, was marched to his left, and formed over against that of the enemy. Upon which the prussian cavalry moved on immediately, the french cavalry advanced to meet them, and the charge was very fierce, several regiments of the french coming on with great resolution. The advantage however, was entirely on the side of the prussians. The french cavalry being routed, was pursued for a considerable time, with the greatest spirit. But having afterwards gained an eminence, which gave them an opportunity of rallying, the prussian horse fell on them afresh, and gave them so thorough a defeat, that they betook themselves to flight in the utmost disorder, which happened at four in the afternoon. Whilst the cavalry charged, the prussian infantry opened themselves, enduring a very brisk cannonade from the enemy, which did some execution; and in about a quarter of an hour their fire began. The french could neither stand it nor resist the valour of their enemies, who gallantly marched up to their batteries, which being carried one after another, they gave way in the greatest confusion. As the left wing of the prussians advanced, the right changed its position, and meeting with a small rising ground, they planted 16 pieces of heavy artillery, the fire of which taking the left wing of the enemy in front, galled them extremely. At five the victory was decided, the cannon ceased, and the french fled on all sides. The king of Prussia ex-

of fidelity and affection, that I give. And let me add, not as an incitement to your courage, but as a testimony of my own gratitude, that from this hour, until you go into quarters, your pay shall be double. Acquit yourselves like men, and put your confidence in God." The effect this speech had upon the men, amounted almost to an heroic phrensy, a good prognostication of success.

posed

posed himself to the hottest of the fire, in leading on his troops. The french left 3000 men dead on the field of battle; 63 pieces of cannon, a great many colours; eight french generals, 250 officers of different ranks, and 6000 private men were taken. The darkness of the night, alone saved from total destruction the scattered remains of an army, so numerous and formidable in the morning. The 6th, the conquerors pursued the run-aways to Freyburg, and the 8th and 9th to Erfurth.

His prussian majesty no sooner had pursued his enemy as far as Erfurth, than he turned back, and began a march of upwards of 200 miles, with that very army, which had before the battle been collected from places above 100 miles distant from each other. The king made a rapid march through Thuringia, Misnia, and Lusatia, in his way to fight the austrians in Silesia. He set out from Leipstick the 12th of november, with 19 battalions and 28 squadrons. Whilst this corps was on their march, marshal Keith, with another, got into Bohemia, through the defiles of Passberg; and marched towards Prague, taking a considerable magazine at Leitmeritz. The two austrian generals Haddick and Marshal, who were posted in Lusatia, to obstruct his majesty's march, fled before him. He arrived the 24th, at Naumburg, on the Queiss, and by making forced marches entered Silesia, and arrived at Parchwitz, near the Oder, the 28th. The prince of Bevern's army joined the king here; and soon after the garrison of Schweidnitz, which were conducting to prison by the austrians, being but weakly guarded, and hearing by accident of the victory of Rosbach, it animated them so much, that they rose upon the escort, dispersed them, and by the greatest chance joined the king's army in its march, adding a considerable strength to it. The royal army having rested a day, marched on the 4th to Neumarck.

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The austrians, in the mean time, confiding in their numbers, on his prussian majesty's approach, abandoned their strong camp (the same which the prince of Bevern had before occupied) and advanced to meet the king, with a resolution to give him battle. The two armies met the 5th of december, near the village of Leuthen : the austrians were commanded by prince Charles of Lorrain, assisted by marshal Daun, the latter of whom had taken all possible precautions to throw a multitude of impediments in the way of his prussian majesty ; the ground which they occupied, had all the advantage of natural situation, improved to the utmost with great diligence and skill : the army was drawn up on a plain, except in some parts it had small eminences, which count Daun had surrounded with artillery ; some hills on his right and left were also covered with batteries of cannon ; in his front were many thickets and causeways ; but to render the whole as impenetrable as possible, he had felled a vast number of trees, and scattered them in the way. In this formidable situation was posted 70,000 austrians, excellent troops, and commanded by count Daun ; the only general who had snatched a victory from the prussian hero.

His majesty hesitated not a moment ; although his troops did not exceed 36,000 men, he resolved to attack the enemy, so much superior. From the nature of the ground, the prussian horse could not act ; but by a most judicious movement of the king's, that disadvantage was overcome ; general Nadaſti, with a corps de reserve, was posted on the austrian's left, with design to take the king in flank ; but his majesty, in making his first dispositions, had foreseen, and guarded against that design, he placed four battalions behind the cavalry of his right wing. Nadaſti, as the king expected, attacked him with great fury, but received so severe a fire from those four battalions, that he retired in the greatest disorder ;
by

by which means the king's flank being well supported and covered, acted with so much order and vigor, that the enemy's right gave way. The prussian artillery was excellently served, and having silenced that of the austrians, enabled the king to maintain those advantages, which he had gained. Never was battle fought with more obstinacy; the attacks of the prussians were incredible; and the austrians made a most gallant defence during the whole battle; they drew up all their forces again about Leuthen, which post was defended on all sides with redoubts and entrenchments: but nothing could stop the impetuosity of the prussians; they made reiterated attacks with the utmost bravery, which their enemies sustained a long time with great firmness, but at last the post was gained, and the austrians fled on all sides, the battle ending in an entire rout. The king pursued them to Lissa; 6000 were slain, 15,000 taken prisoners, 200 pieces of cannon, 60 colours and standards, and 4000 waggons of ammunition and baggage were taken. It is remarkable, that this glorious battle was fought just a month after that of Rosbach.

The fulness of the victory was soon seen in the greatness of its consequences. The austrians were pursued the day after the battle to Breslau; and that city was immediately besieged. Schweidnitz, although it was in the depth of winter, was blockaded: and the prussian parties over-ran all Silesia, recovering not only that part of it, which belonged to the king, but conquered even the austrian division, reducing the garrisons of Jagerndorf, Toppau and Tetschen. In short, the empress queen remained possessed only of the garrison of Schweidnitz, in all Silesia; the whole of which country, but a few days before was in the possession of her victorious troops. His majesty the king of Prussia, having thus gloriously ended the campaign, distributed his men into winter quarters. The austrians retired into Bohemia, with

the shattered remains of their troops, where they also went into winter quarters. But it is time to turn our eyes towards another prospect equally advantageous to his prussian majesty.

The french army in Hanover, from the very signing the convention of Closter-seven, had been guilty of a million of unheard of excesses, and had violated the convention almost in every article. They seized the castle of Schartzfels, and pillaged it, making the garrison prisoners of war. They refused to deliver up the prisoners they had made before the convention, though this was a point expressly stipulated between the generals that settled the detail, and was exactly fulfilled on the part of the hanoverians, by the release of the french prisoners. They summoned the bailies of those districts, into which the french troops were by no means to enter, under pain of military execution, to appear before the french commissary, and compelled them to deliver up the public revenue. They appropriated to themselves part of those magazines, which by express agreement were to be left to the electoral troops. They seized the houses, revenues, and corn belong to the king of England, in the city of Bremen, in spite of the reciprocal engagements entered into, to consider that city, as a place absolutely free and neutral. The duke de Richelieu, the commander in chief, who came to lose all that the skill of d'Estrees had won, (being promoted to the chief command merely by the favour of madam de Pompadour, who hated the marshals d'Estrees) was the author of this behaviour, so injurious to the honour of his country; his fortune, by his extravagance and vices, was very much shattered; and to repair it, he plundered the whole electorate of Hanover, with the most inflexible severity; he levied the most exorbitant contributions; and even that did not exempt the unhappy hanoverians from the insolent and brutal licentiousness of the french soldiery.

soldiery. The capital of the electorate, was the only place which escaped from the universal rapine, by the justice, generosity, and moderation of the duke de Randan its governor, who kept up the strictest discipline ; and behaved with the utmost humanity. Such instances as these, as they happen very rarely, so they ought to be transmitted to posterity to the honour of those who perform them.

There never was a more flagrant instance of what importance a regular and exact discipline is to the very being of an army, than in this under the duke de Richelieu. That general, intent only on plundering the country, relaxed every kind of military discipline ; so that the numerous army, which the conduct of d'Estrees had preserved in excellent order and good spirits, through all the deserts of Westphalia, and against an enemy's army ; now it was in possession of a plentiful country, without any enemy to oppose it, was reduced in its numbers, the soldiers decayed in their health and spirits, in vile order, without cloaths, and even without arms. Such was the condition of this once formidable army, when his majesty, the king of Great Britain, resolved no longer to bear the indignities which the insolence of the enemy was every day increasing. The french even went so far as to attempt taking their arms from the hanoverian and hessian troops ; but this was not suffered. I have before said, that the king of Prussia had detached prince Ferdinand of Brunswick with a small army, into the country of Halberstadt, to watch the motions of marshal Richelieu ; the prince finding what order the french army was in, penetrated through the northern parts of the electorate, and joined his body of prussian troops to the army of hanoverians and Hessians, who instantly resumed their arms, and began to act against the french, under prince Ferdinand's command. The king published a memorial, containing the motives which obliged his troops to take arms,

setting forth in the clearest light, how palpably the french had first broke every article of the convention of Closter-seven.

The prince took the command about the middle of november ; by which time the army was wholly assembled. On his first motions, marshal Richelieu threatened the whole country, of which he was in possession, with fire and sword, to which no reply was made. However, on the prince's approach, the suburbs of Zell was set on fire, the bridge of the Aller burnt, and many houses reduced to ashes. His serene highness having represented to marshal Richelieu, the consequences of such a proceeding, the marshal alledged, that it was done my mere accident. The first operation of importance, which the hanoverian army undertook, was the siege of Harbourg, they became masters of the town, the 28th of november, but the french governor with the garrison retired into the castle ; and defended it with the greatest bravery, till the 29th of december, when he capitulated. Marshal Richelieu, in the mean time, was collecting his troops about Zell. The 6th, the hanoverian army began their march to dislodge him, and arrived within a league of Zell the 13th ; but finding that the french were too strongly intrenched to be attacked, he staid till the 21st, when he broke his camp, and returned towards Ultzen and Lunenburg, to put his troops into winter quarters.

The wonderful events, which distinguish in so remarkable a manner, the year 1757, are such, that the like is hardly to be met with in history. The king of Prussia had once more the happiness to see himself freed from all that imminent danger, which so lately surrounded him ; he now felt the effects of his councils, and his labours ; all his enemies were driven out of his dominions, defeated, broken, and flying every where before him ; himself in quiet possession of Silesia, and his victorious troops ready to fall on their

enemies in the next campaign, with redoubled bravery. Animated with the presence of their sovereign, what labours are too great for prussians to perform? What a wonderful reverse of fortune did this monarch sustain, in so short a space of time, as a single campaign. Triumphant at first; the austrians fly before him, totally defeated, and half a kingdom conquered. The loss of one battle turns the scale, the king of Prussia is defeated, the affairs of the austrians re-established, their armies victorious, and their enemy on the very brink of destruction, abandoned by his allies, his dominions plundered, and laid waste by his enemies, and himself at the very edge of despair. Another battle raises him again, and in a month's time, the austrians, imperiliasts, french, russians, and swedes, all retire before him; his dominions are freed from all his enemies; and the force of one small potentate baffles all the endeavours of a confederacy of five of the greatest powers in the universe. How will posterity be amazed to hear, that above half the power of Europe was united, and exerted in vain, to reduce the king of Prussia, unassisted by allies! such are the events that happened; such the actions that were performed, not in an age, but in a single campaign.

C H A P. XIV.

Affairs in England. Transactions at sea. Senegall taken. War in the East-Indies. Battles between Pocock and d'Acbe. Fort St. David's taken by the french. French besiege Madrafs. The siege raised. Affairs in France. In Germany. Convention between Great Britain and Prussia. French retire out of Hanover. Prince of Clermont commands the french army. Hoya and Minden taken. Generous behaviour of the duke de Randan. French army drove beyond the Rhine. Embden taken by commodore Holmes. Schweidnitz taken. King of Prussia enters Moravia. Lays siege to Olmutz. The siege raised. Retreats into Bohemia. Arrives at Frankfort on the Oder.

THE year 1758, opened at so critical a conjuncture, that it was very reasonably expected, it would be remarkable for great and important actions. The belligerent powers of Europe, spent the winter in making the most formidable preparations, for the ensuing campaign. The immense confederacy against the king of Prussia still subsisted; and every one of the powers that formed it, seemed to be emulous who should be most forward to crush an enemy that was found more powerful, than they at first imagined. England was his only ally, and one whose assistance he had reason to hope would be very advantageous to him. The army which the king of England had under the command of prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, was of infinite service to his prussian majesty; for the french army which opposed it, it is very natural to suppose, had it had no antagonist in Hanover, would have marched against that monarch's dominions. It was resolved in England, to keep it in play, against the french, which gave occasion

to a message from the king, the 18th of january, to the commons, importing, " That having ordered the army, formed last year in his electoral dominions, to be put again in motion, and to act with the utmost vigour against the common enemy, in concert with his ally the king of Prussia; and the exhausted and ruined state of the electorate and its revenues, having rendered it impossible for the same to maintain and keep together that army, until the further necessary charge of it, &c. could be laid before the house; his majesty found himself under the absolute necessity of recommending to them, the speedy consideration of such a present supply, as might enable him to subsist, and keep together the said army." In consequence of this message, the house, on the 23d, voted 100,000 l. for the end therein mentioned.

In England, we find very few events that the compass of this work will admit my speaking of. In parliament were many resolutions, which had a manifest connection with the war; of these I shall at different times take proper notice. The only military preparations of great importance in this kingdom were naval. At Portsmouth, Plymouth, Chatham, &c. several armaments were getting ready with great diligence. A squadron of eleven ships of the line, and nine frigates, had been some time in the Mediterranean, under the command of admiral Osborn, to block up M. de la Clue, who was in Carthagen, with a french squadron. On the 28th of april, Mr. Osborn fell in with another small squadron of french ships, in their way from Toulon, to reinforce de la Clue's squadron, commanded by M. de Quesne, in the Foudroyant of 80 guns, the Orpheus of 64, the Oriflamme of 50, and the Pleiade of 24. While the chief part of the english squadron continued off Carthagen, to watch the french ships there, capt. Storr, in the Revenge of 64 guns, supported by capt. Hughes, in the Berwick of 63, and capt. Evans,

in the *Preston* of 50, took the *Orpheus*, commanded by M. de Herville with 500 men; capt. Gardiner, in the *Monmouth* of 64, supported by capt. Stanhope, in the *Swiftsure* of 70, and captain Hervey, in the *Hampton-court* of 64, took the *Foudroyant* with 800 men. Capt. Rowley, in the *Montague* of 60, and capt. Montague, in the *Monarch* of 74, ran the *Oriflamme* on shore, under the castle of Aiglos; but was not destroyed by reason of the neutrality of the coast of Spain. The *Pleiade* got away by out-sailing the english ships. The greatest loss sustained by the victors, was in that of the brave capt. Gardiner; lieutenant Carket commanded his ship on the captain's death, and fought the *Foudroyant*, with great conduct and courage; as a reward for which, admiral Osborn conferred on him the command of the ship he had conquered, and M. de Quesne, when he struck, refused to give his sword to capt. Stanhope; but gave it with great politeness to lieutenant Carket. The fleet in Carthagea consisted of one ship of 84 guns, three of 74, two of 64, two of 50, one of 36, one of 24, one of 16, and one of 14.

The english cruising squadrons, in the beginning of this year, were very successful in taking a great number of french merchantmen and privateers. We had one under vice-admiral Smith in the Downs, another under rear-admiral Cotes, in the West-Indies, who had done the english trade in those parts great service, by his conduct and bravery. Another strong squadron, under admiral Boscawen, sailed from Spithead, for north America, the 19th of february. The 12th of march, sir Edward Hawke sailed with seven ships of the line, and three frigates, from Spithead, to cruise in the bay of Biscay; the 4th of april he fell in, off the isle of Aix, with a french squadron, of five ships of the line, seven frigates, and a convoy of 40 merchantmen, to which he gave chase; the men of war fled, and the merchantmen, many of them

them were ran on shore out of the reach of the english ships, and only two or three taken. On the 7th of april, the Essex of 64 guns, and two frigates, in their way to join sir Edward Hawke, fell in with 12 sail more of french merchant's ships, escorted by a frigate of 22 guns, which the Essex took, together with five or six of the merchantmen.

In the beginning of march, a small squadron, consisting of the Nassau of 64 guns, the Harwich of 50, the Rye of 24, a sloop and two busses, under the command of captain Marth (having on board a body of marines, under major Mason, and a detachment of artillery, under captain Walker) sailed from Plymouth for the coast of Africa. On the 24th of april, this squadron arrived off the river Senegall, got over the bar the 29th; and the next day landed 700 marines and seamen, with design to attack the french fort Lewis; but deputies arrived with articles on which they proposed to surrender, and these being agreed to, the english forces were put in possession of this most important settlement; where they found 232 french officers and soldiers, 92 pieces of cannon; with treasure, slaves, and merchandize to a very considerable value. The success which this small force met with, was of the greatest importance to the english nation, and of equal prejudice to the french: I shall speak more fully of it hereafter*.

The East-Indies, since the beginning of the war, had been a theatre fruitful in events. The year 1758, in that country, was distinguished by many acts of importance. Vice-admiral Pocock, since the death

* The king of the country about Senegall, was so desirous of seeing the men of war, that he swam on board, though the distance was upwards of an english mile. The officers of the ship treated him with great civility, with which he seemed vastly pleased. At parting, he told the captain, he should be extremely fond of seeing the king of England, which he thought he might do, as he had ships at his command, for if he had ships, he would go and see him.

of Mr. Watſon, had commanded in chief there. Being joined by commodore Stevens in Madraſs road, on the 24th of march, with reinforcements from England, he put to ſea with his ſquadron * the 27th, with deſign to intercept a french ſquadron in thoſe parts, under the command of M. d'Ache. The 20th he came in ſight of them; the french admiral (whoſe ſquadron conſiſted of three ſhips of 74 guns, two of 64, two of 60, two of 50, and one of 36) on ſeeing Mr. Pocock's fleet, formed his line, as did the english admiral, and bore down on the enemy; the engagement laſted but a very ſhort time, before M. d'Ache broke his line, and bore away; when Pocock hung out the ſignal for a general chace; but night coming on, he continued the purſuit without any effect. The firſt of may, he came to an anchor near Madraſs, and was informed, that one of the french ſhips of 74 guns, was ſo much damaged in the action, that its captain had ran her on ſhore. This victory would have been much more complete, had the captains who commanded in the rear of the english ſquadron, done their duty; for when the admiral threw out the ſignal for a cloſe engagement, they kept back, and would not bear down, even after repeated ſignals had been made. In admiral Pocock's letter, he beſtows great encomiums on commodore Stevens, capt. Latham, and capt. Somerſet in the van; alſo, capt. Kempenſelt, the commodore's captain, and capt. Har-

* Conſiſting of the following ſhips:

Ships.	Guns.	Men.	
Yarmouth	64	500	Pocock.
Elizabeth	64	595	Stevens.
Cumberland	66	520	
Weymoth	60	420	
Tyger	60	400	
Newcaſtle	50	350	
Salisbury	50	300	
Queenborough frigate			
Protector ſtoreſhip,			

riſon,

rison, with the rest of the officers and men on board the Yarmouth. The admiral, on his arrival at Madras, ordered a court martial to assemble, to enquire into the conduct of those captains, whose behaviour had appeared so faulty. In consequence of which, capt. Nicholas Vincent was sentenced to be dismissed from the command of the Weymouth: capt. George Legge of the Newcastle, to be cashiered from his majesty's service; and capt. William Brereton to loose one year's rank, as a post captain.

Mr. Pocock having repaired the most material damages his squadron had received, put to sea the 10th of may, with an intent to get up to fort St. David's, but was not able to effect it; he suspected the french designed to attack it, and knew, that if his squadron was there, such an attempt would be impracticable. His suspicions were but too true; the french army under M. Lally, had besieged it, with the assistance of some of the french ships, and it surrendered the 2d of june. The 30th of may, Mr. Pocock was in sight of Pondicherry; and some days after hearing that fort St. David's was taken, he returned immediately to Madras. He put to sea again, the 25th of july, in quest of the enemy, and on the 3d of august, by taking advantage of a sea breeze, he got the weather gage, and brought on an engagement. In ten minutes M. d'Ache bore away, keeping a very irregular line, and continuing a running fire till three o'clock, when the english admiral made the signal for a general chase; and pursued them till it was dark, when they escaped by out-sailing him, and got into Pondicherry road; where they continued till the 3d of september, when they sailed for their islands to clean and refit; two of their ships being in a very bad condition, and others considerably damaged.

M. Lally, as soon as had taken fort St. David's, marched with 2500 men, into the king of Tanjour's country, to try, if possible, to procure a sum of money

ney from him ; being refused, he plundered a trading town on the coast, and besieged his capital, but meeting with a more resolute defence than he expected, he retreated about the middle of august, in great confusion, to Carrical, a french sea-port settlement ; and from thence to Pondicherry, at the end of september. About the middle of december, the french army again moved from their quarters, and marched to lay siege to Madrafs : colonels Lawrence and Draper commanded there, and sustained all the attacks of the french, with the greatest conduct and bravery, making several successful sallies : but a reinforcement arriving in the port the middle of february, 1759, the enemy raised the siege, and retreated with the utmost precipitation, leaving behind them several batteries of cannon and mortars ; having suffered very severely during the siege. General Lally was esteemed an officer of abilities, he had served many times with reputation in Europe ; and was of greater rank than the french court usually send into this country. The bad success he met with was entirely owing to the miserable troops he commanded, and the want of the necessary support from Europe. The want of a firmness in the administration of the government of France at home, occasioned that manifest weakness which so evidently appeared in all her colonies. There were several other expeditions undertaken on both sides, in the beginning of 1759 ; but I shall give an account of them hereafter. The chain of affairs in India, during the year 1758, was so connected, that I could not avoid giving a history of the whole year at once. It will also appear more perspicuous to the reader.

The continent of Europe at this time, bid more fair for being the theatre of great events. Half Europe, as I before mentioned, was employed in making preparations for the ensuing campaign. The french were very diligent in putting their army on the
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the Rhine, on a better footing. It will not here be amiss to take a slight view of the court of France; for then the cause of the despicable figure, which the french army in Hanover made, the latter end of the last campaign, will more clearly appear.

Madam de Pompadour, mistress to the king of France, had governed that monarch and his kingdom for 15 years, with the most absolute sway. A quarrel between her and the marshals d'Estrees was the occasion of recalling the marshal, indisputably one of the greatest generals in France, from his command in Hanover. The duke de Richelieu, who succeeded him, bought his promotion by an immense bribe to her. This woman set every thing, in the gift of the crown, up to sale; commissions in the army and the navy, were at her disposal. Little artifices, and petty passions could never make great ministers. Yet, she aspired still higher, and assumed all the authority of a despotic mistress, that gave what motion she pleased to the state machine. Mean spirited councils naturally enough coming from her, and not the less followed for their being so; ministers disgraced, generals recalled, and appointed at her imperious nod, and all of these for the worst, signalized her power and her want of judgment. In the mean time, this subversion of all order and dignity threw a general languor into the administration of affairs. The subjects of the greatest rank, merit, and abilities, were either driven into corners, or voluntarily shrank from the indignity of places, that could only be held on the scandalous terms of paying court to a woman, constantly jealous of not having enough of that respect shewn her, to which she must have been conscious of having so little title, and but the more intent on hiding that meanness of her's, by an insolence so much fitter to prove and expose it. The consequence of this must be, the filling the places; thus vacant, with petty characters; whose greatest merit

merit could only be the having none, as no merit could there exist, but what must be incompatible with a submission to her, or with subministering to the will and measures of a woman, that visibly sacrificed to her own private passions, the king who was governed, and the kingdom that was dishonoured by her*. Under such an administration, could it be wondered at, that France made so pitiful a figure in the war she carried on. But the necessity of the times called loudly for a change of ministers and measures, and indeed the court found themselves obliged to make some alterations in their conduct. The duke de Bellisle, whose abilities and conduct had gained him so great a character, was placed at the head of the military department †; in which he
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* The hist. de Pompadour, Vol. II. p. 131.

† On the duke's taking his place in council, as secretary of war, he made the following sensible and animated speech; which as it sets the bad state of the french army in a very clear light, I shall insert it here:

" I know, said he, the state of our armies. It gives me great grief, and no less indignation: for besides the real evil of the disorder in itself, the disgrace and infamy which it reflects on our government, and on the whole nation, is still more to be apprehended. The choice of officers ought to be made with mature deliberation. I know but too well, to what length the want of discipline, pillaging, and robbing have been carried on, by the officers and common men, after the example set them by their generals. It mortifies me to think I am a frenchman; my principles are known to be very different from those which are now followed. I had the satisfaction to retain the esteem, the friendship, and the consideration of all the princes, noblemen, and even of all the common people, in all parts of Germany, where I commanded the king's forces. They lived there in the midst of abundance; every one was pleased; it fills my soul with anguish, to find, that at present, the french are held in execration; that every body is dispirited, and that many officers publicly say things that are criminal, and highly punishable. The evil is so great, that it demands immediate redress. I can easily judge by what passes in my own breast, of what our generals feel from the speeches they must daily hear in Germany, concerning our conduct; which indeed would lose much to be
compared

endeavoured to make a thorough reformation. The involving the french nation in a german war, was a measure against which this minister had before given his advice: but as it had been embraced, and his country was engaged too far to recede, he resolved to put the army in Germany on a good footing, and to prosecute the war with vigour.

Indeed the state of France, at this time, was truly deplorable; the great effort which it was resolved to make in Germany, drew off the attention of the ministry from their marine, and consequently from the due protection of their trade. The royal navy ran to ruin, and the trade of France, the sinews of their power, was cut off by the english shipping; in this condition, it was impossible to support the war vigorously in America, and the East-Indies; nay, it was afterwards found, that even the very coast of France was far from being impenetrable.

compared with that of our allies. I must particularly complain of the delays and irregularity of the posts; a service which is very ill provided for. I am likewise displeased at the negligence of our generals, in returning answers; which is a manifest breach of their duty. Had I commanded the army, a thousand things which are done, would not have been done, and others which are neglected, would have been executed. I would have multiplied my communications; I would have strong posts on the right, on the left, and in the center, lined with troops. I would have had magazines in every place. The quiet and satisfaction of the country should have been equal to their present disaffection, at being harrassed and plundered; and we should have been as much beloved, as we are at present abhorred. The consequences are too apparent to need being mentioned. I must insist on these things, because late redress is better than the continuation of the evil."

This speech is a sensible and just one. But how can we reconcile the expressions of humanity and tenderness for the conquered, and other countries in Germany, which it contains, with those we meet with in the marshal duke's letters, found among the papers of marshal Contades, at the battle of Minden?—It is in his letters we are to look for his real sentiments, not in his speeches.

The

The ministry in England resolved to strengthen their alliance with Prussia, by another treaty with his prussian majesty. Finding that the good agreement between the courts of Versailles and Vienna was every day growing more firm, they wisely regarded the safety of that monarch, as necessary to preserve the ballance of power in Europe. Pursuant to this plan, a second convention was signed the 11th of april, between the kings of Great Britain and Prussia, by which it was agreed, that the king of Great Britain should pay, on demand, to his prussian majesty 4,000000 german crowns, (670,000 l. sterling :) which sum, that monarch engaged to employ in augmenting his forces, that were to act for the good of the common cause. The two kings also agreed, not to conclude any treaty of peace, truce, or neutrality, &c. with the powers at war, but in concert, and in mutual agreement, wherein, both should be by name comprehended. On the 20th, the commons voted that sum for his majesty's service.

I left prince Ferdinand of Brunswick with the hanoverian army under his command, just retired into winter quarters, without meeting with any interruption from the french, having gained several advantages over them. Count Clermont now commanded the french army, the third commander in chief it had obeyed within a year*. Prince Ferdinand divided his troops into two bodies, the principal one under himself, marched on the right, to the country of Bremen, whilst a second body, under general Zastrow, kept on towards Gifforn. The prince made

* It was said, that soon after his arrival at Hanover, he wrote to his master, that he had found his majesty's army divided into three bodies, one above ground, the other under ground, and the third in the hospitals. Therefore he desired his majesty's instructions, whether he should endeavour to bring the first away, or if he should stay till it had joined the other two.

himself

himself master of Rottenburg, Ottersberg, Verden, and Bremen, by the middle of february, with little or no opposition; during his stay at the latter place, being informed, that the french general, the count de Chabot, with a strong detachment, was posted at Hoya, upon the Weser, a post of such importance, that the prince resolved to dislodge him. He pitched upon the hereditary prince of Brunswick, his nephew, to execute that service, with four battalions, and some light horse. The young prince, not 20 years of age, full of ardour to distinguish himself, took the command of those troops, and in executing his uncle's orders, displayed so much conduct and bravery, as would have done honour to the maturity of the most experienced general.

Before he came to Hoya, there was a deep and broad river to pass, without any means of crossing it, but a small float of timber, and two or three small boats, which carried about eight men each. One battalion of foot, and a squadron of dragoons were destined to make a feint attack on the left side of the Weser: the three other battalions were to pass the river, and enter the back part of the town. The passing the river on a single float took up so much time, that a long while was spent in getting less than half the corps over; by the time the first half was over, a high wind arose, which rendered the float unserviceable, and separated the prince from the greater part of his men, when the enemy he was going to attack, were more numerous than his whole party were they joined. In this dilemma, (out of which nothing but the spirit and genius of the prince could have extricated him) he took a resolution worthy of Cæsar himself; he resolved not to spend any more time, in endeavours to get over more men, but to march briskly on against the enemy, in so bold a manner as to possess them with an opinion of his strength, and attack them before they could unde-

ceive themselves. Between four and five o'clock in the morning, he marched directly against Hoya, with a regiment of horse, part of a battalion, and a hautbitzer. When they got upon the causeway, within a mile and a half of the town, an unluckly accident happened, which might have ruined the whole enterprise, the detachment fired upon four of the enemy's dragoons that were patrolling. This firing was caught from one to another, and at last became general. This was more than sufficient to have discovered them; but putting on a bold countenance, they continued their march with the greatest diligence, and met with no obstruction, till they came to the bridge of the town, where a very smart fire well supported ensued; but the ground before the gate not being large enough for the prince to bring up all his men, he judiciously formed the resolution to turn the enemy, by attacking them in the rear; to execute which, he went a circuit round the town, with part of his men, attacked the enemy with bayonet fixed, and having drove them out of the town, with a great slaughter, rejoined his other party. Chabot threw himself into the castle, making a shew of defence, but surrendered the place, with his stores and magazines; his troops being permitted to march out, as the prince had no heavy cannon to lay a regular siege to it. This piece of service was executed the 23d of february.

Prince Ferdinand continued to advance; and the french every where to retreat. The 5th of march he laid close siege to Minden, the only place which the french possessed in the electorate of Hanover: and it surrendered with its garrison of 4000 men prisoners of war, the 14th. The hanoverian army was every where successful; the miserable condition of the french is not to be described; the total neglect of military discipline, the want of cloaths in such a rigorous season; the loss of all their baggage, and even their provisions, by the hanoverian hunters, who were continually

ally harrassing them : this concatenation of misfortunes had so reduced their numbers, that the poor wretched soldiers were really to be pitied, had not they, by their barbarities, inflicted the same misery on the inhabitants of the country which they had evacuated. But one exception we must make to this behaviour ; the duke de Randan left Hanover with all the generosity and virtue with which he had governed it. Every where else, the french generals burnt all the magazines they could not carry off ; but this amiable nobleman, although he had time to do the same, left them all in the hands of the magistrates, to be gratuitously distributed amongst the poor ; he employed all his vigilance to prevent his soldiers plundering, or using any violence to the inhabitants, and was himself the last man that marched out of the city. For this humane and generous behaviour, prince Ferdinand and the regency of Hanover, sent him letters of thanks ; and the clergy in their sermons, did not fail to celebrate the action. In short, the duke's conduct, which did such honour to his name, and country, has made his memory for ever dear to the hanoverians, and drew tears of love and gratitude from his very enemies ; which surely must give that general a much more durable satisfaction, than any he could have had from following the example of his countrymen, in satiating a brutal revenge.

After the reduction of Minden, the french army retired to Hamelen ; but on the approach of the hanoverians, evacuated it, leaving their magazines and their sick behind them, not stopping till they came to Paderborn, where they fixed their head quarters the 18th of march. But the combined army arriving the next day at Melle, the french retreated as fast as they could towards the Rhine, and in their march were joined by the troops that had been at Embden, and at Cassel, and in the land-

graviate of Hesse, which they evacuated the 21st. During their whole march they were closely pursued by the prussian hussars, and the hanoverian hunters, who killed and made prisoners numbers of their men. At last this once formidale army passed the Rhine, only leaving on the other side of it a strong garrison in Wesel, where the prince of Clermont fixed his head quarters.

A constant train of success at this time attended the hanoverian arms; and every where throughout the whole circle of Westphalia, the french met with the severest rebuffs. Embden was in the middle of march recovered by commodore Holmes, with a small squadron of men of war. The french garrison of 4000 men, as soon as they discovered the commodore's fleet, evacuated the place. As soon as Mr. Holmes perceived their design, he sent his armed boats to pursue them, they took too or three of the enemy's vessels; and in one of them was found the son of an officer of distinction, and a large sum of money. Mr. Holmes immediately restored the youth to his father, and offered to return the money, upon receiving the officer's word of honour, that it was his private property; a conduct which does honour to the commodore. But we must leave the operations of the armies on the Rhine, for the present, and take a view of the measures which his prussian majesty took to distress his enemies the austrians.

That monarch opened the campaign with the siege of Schweidnitz, which had been blocked up all the winter; and after 13 days siege, it surrendered the 16th of april, with its garrison, (which at the beginning of the blockade was 7000 men, but reduced by sickness, &c. to 3000) prisoners of war. By the taking of this important post, the king of Prussia cleared all Silesia of the austrians. His majesty himself, in the mean time, marched with a part of his army towards Grussian and Friedland, and sent a detachment

detachment as far as Trantenau, in Bohemia, where was an austrian garrison, which after a warm resistance, was obliged to abandon the place, and fall back to their grand army at Koniggratz, where it had been posted since the arrival of marshal Daun, who set out from Vienna the 9th of march. By this the prussians opened themselves a way into Bohemia, where they immediately poured in detachments of light troops, to raise contributions, and to harrafs the out-posts of the enemy. At the same time, general Fouquet, at the head of another detachment, marched against the austrian general Jahnus, who was posted in the county of Glatz, and obliged him to abandon the posts he had occupied in that county.

Besides the grand army in Silesia, his majesty formed another under his brother prince Henry, of above 30,000 men, in Saxony, to oppose the army of the empire, which by means of the immense diligence that was used in collecting the troops, and by joining a body of austrians, was again in a condition to act. Count Dohna commanded another on the side of Pomerania; and a considerable body was posted between Wolau and Glogau, to cover Silesia from any inroads which the russians might make into it. All these armies were posted in such a masterly manner, as to keep open a communication with one another; and were admirably situated for their destined purposes.

But the king of Prussia's design was very different from what the austrians imagined; he had placed his army in such a position, that his enemies thought he would open the campaign, by marching into Bohemia. That monarch's feint took; whilst the austrians were preparing to oppose his march, he suddenly made a rapid march towards Moravia, which country he entered the 3d of may. He had some time before collected his army, amounting to about 50,000 men, near Neiss in Silesia, and marched in three days

to Troppau, he divided it into two columns; marshal Keith at the head of the first column, set out the 25th of april, and took the road to Jagerndorf; and the king himself with the second, on the 27th. These two bodies entered the plain of Olmutz, one by Sternberg, and the other by Gibau. General de la Ville, who commanded a body of austrian troops in Moravia, retired on the approach of the prussians, who advanced by swift and rapid marches; de Ville threw part of his corps into Olmutz. The king had left general Fouquet in the county of Glatz, to watch the motions of marshal Daun; but finding that the austrians were beginning their march for Moravia, this general went to Neifs, and took under his convoy the artillery and stores that were requisite for besieging Olmutz, and arrived at Gibau on the 12th of may: the king advanced that day as far as Ollschau, and drove away a body of austrians, who retired from thence to Prostnitz, near which place the prince of Wurtemberg fixed his camp of four regiments of dragoons, one of hussars, and some battalions of fusileers. The king opened the trenches against Olmutz, the 27th.

In the mean time, marshal Daun left his camp at Konigsgratz, and advanced by Skalitz, near Nachod in Bohemia, to Leutomysfel, where he encamped; but quitted it the 23d, entering Moravia by Billa, and marched to Gewicz: general Harsch commanded his vanguard, and pitched his camp at Allerheiligen opposite to Littau; and 5 or 6000 more of them advanced to Prostnitz. This situation of the austrian army did honour to marshal Daun. The country from Gewicz to Littau, in which he took his posts, was so mountainous, that it was impossible to attack him. He had the fertile country of Bohemia, from which he easily and readily drew supplies, in his back. He was also from this position enabled to harraß the prussian army before Olmutz, and to intercept the
convoys

convoys which were brought to them from Silesia. His prussian majesty found a great difficulty in the siege, from the extent of the works round the city; for this obliged him to have his posts in many places very weak. Marshal Daun made the most of this advantage. In the night of the 8th of june, he attacked one of the prussian posts, penetrated through the camp, and threw succours into the city, whose garrison at the beginning of the siege consisted of 6000 men, under general Marshal. This advantage encouraged the austrians, so that scarce a night passed without some such attacks. Another circumstance which retarded the king's operations very much, was the want of forage; the austrians had destroyed all there was in the king's rout to Olmutz, so that his horse was obliged to forage at a considerable distance; which harrassed them extremely. The king of Prussia endeavoured by every art in his power to provoke Daun to a battle; but that able general knew too well the advantage of the game he was playing, to throw it out of his hands.

The marshal being informed that a great prussian convoy was to leave Troppau the 25th of june, resolved by attacking it to endeavour to force the prussians to raise the siege. The forces who escorted this convoy, consisted of eight battalions, and near 4000 recovered sick. Daun detached general Jahnus, who was at Muglitz, towards Bahrn, and ordered a detachment to march from Prerau to Stadt-Liebe, that the convoy might be attacked on two sides; and in order to deceive the prussian army, he drew near to them, very near Predlitz. But the king was too experienced a general to be deceived; he sent out general Zeithen with a strong corps to meet it. The convoy was attacked on the 28th, before that general could come up with it; but the enemy were repulsed, and routed. Marshal Daun having reinforced his detachments, the convoy was again attacked, on

the 29th, between Bantſch and Dornſtadt. Part of it had ſcarce paſt the defiles of Dornſtadt, when the aſtrians fell upon it with their whole force. The head of the convoy was cut off from the reſt : and though general Zeithen did on this occaſion, all that could be expected from the moſt experienced officer, yet he was obliged to abandon his waggons, and retire to Troppau. Only the head of the convoy arrived in the prussian camp, the reſt was taken by the enemy. This was a fatal ſtroke ; for had it arrived ſafe, the place would not have held out above a fortnight longer.

The king of Prussia directly found himſelf under the neceſſity of raiſing the ſiege : and this neceſſity was augmented, by the news which he every day received, of the near approach of the ruſſian army to his dominions. Marſhal Daun had made an excellent movement, whereby he advanced himſelf to Poſnitz, in ſuch an advantageous ſituation, that he was able to ſupport Olmutz in the moſt effectual manner. But by this movement, he left the frontiers of Bohemia uncovered. The king of Prussia in an inſtant ſaw this advantage, and reſolved to make his retreat into Bohemia : had he fallen back into Sileſia, he wiſely foreſaw, that he ſhould draw the whole aſtrian army into his own dominions. To deceive marſhal Daun, he kept up an exceeding briſk fire the day before the ſiege was raiſed : but in the night of july 1, the king and his whole army took the road to Bohemia, and gained an entire march upon the enemy, ſo that for all the utmoſt efforts which they made to overtake him, he entered Bohemia without any loſs. Marſhal Keith marched by Littau to Muglitz and Tribau ; the king's column marched by Konitz. The vanguard, under the prince of Anhalt Deſſau, ſeized at Leutomiffel, a conſiderable magazine. Marſhal Daun detached a large body of troops, under the generals Buccow, and Laudohn, to harraſs the king's march ;
but

but they did not incommode him in the least. The prussian army proceeded by Zwittau to Leutomissel, where it halted a day, and from thence to Hohemauth. Marshal Keith dispersed a body of austrians at Holliz, while the king marched by Leutomissel, and arrived the 11th at Konigsgratz, where general Buccow was with 7000 men, who were posted behind the Elbe, and in the intrenchments they had thrown up all round the city; but he retired in a few days with his little army towards Clumetz; upon which his prussian majesty immediately took possession of that important post, and laid all the neighbouring country under contribution: but as provisions grew very scarce, and his presence was wanted more and more in his own dominions, he sent lieut. general Fouquet with 16 battalions and 15 squadrons, to occupy the post of Nachod: the king himself marched to Oppotschna; and marshal Daun's army was encamped the 22d of july, on the hills of Libischaw. As the king had resolved to retire into Silesia, he left the camp of Konigsgratz, the 25th, and having passed the Mettau the 28th, encamped at Jassina; from whence he dispatched general Retzow, towards the hills of Studnitz, from whence he drove the austrian general Jahnus. His prussian majesty directed his course through the county of Glatz, and towards the northern part of Silesia; he arrived the first of august at Skalitz, and after a rapid march of 21 days, by Wisoka, Politz, and Landshut, encamped the 22d at Frankfort on the Oder; where we must leave him for the present, to take a view of the military operations between Great Britain and France.

C H A P. XV.

Expedition to the coast of France, under the duke of Marlborough. Stores and shipping at St. Maloe's burnt. Campaign of 1758 in America. General Abercrombie succeeds lord Loudon as commander in chief. Defeat at Ticonderoga. Lord Howe slain. Expedition against Cape Breton. Louisburg capitulates. Remarks on its importance. Fort Frontenac taken. Fort du Quesne abandoned. Reflections on the success of the campaign in America. Second expedition to the coast of France, under general Bligh. Cberburg taken, and its fortifications, &c. demolished. Third expedition. Troops land at St. Lunar bay. Action at St. Cas. Re-embark. Reflections.

THE ministry in England were divided in their opinions, as to the manner in which it was best to prosecute the war against France. Some were for making the great push in Germany, and improving to the utmost those advantages which prince Ferdinand had already gained. Others were also for sending some english troops thither; but not for making it the principal theatre of our military operations, they thought that our great navy might be employed to advantage, in conveying an army over to the coast of France, and assisting it in the attempts it should make. The latter opinion prevailed, and in consequence of it, a strong squadron of ships being prepared at Spithead, with a sufficient number of transports, orders were issued for assembling a body of troops on the isle of Wight; and in the beginning of may, all the corps that composed this body were in motion. A battering train of artillery, and all the ordnance proper for such an armament, had already been embarked at the

the tower, and conveyed to Portsmouth in 9 transports. On the 16th, the army, consisting of sixteen battalions, and three companies of artillery, was formed on the isle of Wight; but nine troops of light horse designed for this ENTERPRIZE, were left on the Portsmouth side, for the convenience of easier embarkation. The duke of Marlborough was commander in chief; lord George Sackville was second in command, and under these was another lieutenant general, besides five major generals *. Lord Anson and sir Edward Hawke commanded the grand fleet; and commodore Howe a smaller, who was entrusted with every thing that related to landing the troops in the enemy's dominions: for this purpose, a considerable number of flat-bottomed boats, of a new invention were provided, and nothing was wanting that could be deemed necessary to forward the execution of the enterprize. Lord Downe, sir James Lowther, sir John Armitage, Mr. Berkeley, and Mr. Delaval, persons of distinction, rank and fortune, engaged as volunteers in the service. And the whole nation formed the most ardent hopes of success in it.

The fleets † set sail the first of june; that under lord Anson separated from the rest, and bore off to-

* Lieutenant general, Earl of Ancram.

Major general Waldegrave,

Major general Mostyn,

Major general Drury,

Major general Boscawen,

Major general Elliot,

Brigadier Elliot, commanding the light horse.

Lieut. Col. Hotham, adjutant general.

Capt. Watson, quarter master general, with rank of lieut. col.

† Lord Anson's consisted of one ship of 110 guns, four of 90, two of 80, three of 64, two of 60, one of 50, three of 36, and two of 20.

Commodore Howe's of one of 70, three of 50, four of 36, three of 20, nine of 16, one of 14, and ten cutters of 10. One hundred transports, 20 tenders, and ten storeships.

wards

wards the bay of Biscay, with design to spread the alarm down the whole coast of France; and to watch the motions of the squadron in Brest harbour. The fleet under commodore Howe, with the transports, having on board the troops, amounting, as I said before, to sixteen battalions, and nine troops of light horse, was destined for the bay of Cancele, in the neighbourhood of St. Maloe's, where they landed on the 5th, and directly seized the posts and villages, and the next day marked out a piece of ground for a camp, in order to secure their retreat. The common soldiers and seamen plundered every thing that came in their way, and even murdered many of the old inhabitants in the villages, to the reproach of discipline, and disgrace of humanity. The disembarkation being finished; on the 7th, the duke of Marlborough, and lord George Sackville, with the first column of the army, began their march towards St. Maloe's: lord Ancram with the second column, advanced towards the same place, by the village of Doll. The next day and night a detachment of the army burnt above 100 sail of shipping, many of them privateers, from 20 to 30 guns, together with a great number of magazines, filled with naval stores, at St. Servan and Solidore, a fauxbourg to St. Maloe's, with a large and open harbour. The troops also took possession of a fort which the enemy had abandoned. During these transactions, there was a brigade left in the intrenchment at Cancele, who continued to strengthen it, which was very easily done, for there never was a finer situation for a small army to make a stand against any superior number. In the mean time, the light horse and out parties scoured the country, and brought in a considerable number of prisoners; but the town of St. Maloe's was too strong for them to attempt taking it. The 10th, the troops marched back to the landing place at Cancele, and encamped within the intrenchments and redoubts just finished;

finished ; and they were re-embarked the 11th. The next day the town of Granville was reconnoitred, by a gentleman who had been formerly in that place. He perceived a camp before it, and received intelligence, that there was a considerable body of troops there under the marshal de Harcourt, commander of the french troops in Normandy. The 28th, they directed their course to Cherbourg, the bay of which is open to the sea, without affording any security to shipping. Here it was resolved to land, and a disposition was made accordingly. The generals determined, that the forts Querqueville, Hommet, and Gallet, should be attacked in the night, by the first regiment of guards. The men were actually distributed in the flat bottomed boats, when a very high wind arose, and obliged them to postpone the attack ; and the weather continuing to be unfavourable, it was judged proper to put to sea immediately ; accordingly the fleet sailed towards the isle of Wight, and anchored at St. Helen's the 1st of july. The duke of Marlborough and lord George Sackville set out for London, where the king received them very graciously, leaving the command of the troops to the earl of Ancram. The 5th, orders came to disembark the troops, till the transports should be re victualled. They accordingly landed at Cowes, and marched into their old intrenchments.

Such was the result of this expedition to the coast of France. Concerning the success of it, we should observe, that the design which the english ministry had in making the attempt was, to destroy the enemy's shipping and naval stores, to secure the navigation of the english channel ; and to alarm the king of France in such a manner, as would oblige him to employ a great number of troops for the defence of his own coast ; to hamper him in the prosecution of his designs upon Germany, and to screen Great Britain and Ireland from the danger of any invasion or insult. It should

should also be remembered, that the success which attended the expedition, was obtained with little or no loss. But whether we may reasonably pronounce, that the good resulting from the expedition, paid for the expence we were at in forming and executing it, is a point I will not pretend to decide. Indeed the french king, while an english squadron of ships, and a strong body of troops were employed in attacking the maritime parts of France, could not send such powerful reinforcements to his armies in Germany, as if his own dominions were entirely free from such insult. Besides, this success convinced all Europe of the real superiority of the english naval power, which attacked the coasts of France, while other squadrons blocked up their ships in their own harbours.

In America it was reasonable to expect better success than our arms had hitherto met with, for the force which was employed was very formidable. Three grand expeditions were undertaken; one against Louisburg, another against Ticonderoga and Crown Point, and the third against fort du Quesne. General Abercrombie succeeded lord Loudon in the chief command, his lordship being recalled in the winter; and he resolved to command the expedition against Ticonderoga, himself. Having collected the troops together, he embarked them to the number of 6000 regulars, and 9000 provincials, with a good train of artillery, in 900 batteaus and 150 whale boats on the lake George, the 5th of july; and landed at the destined place the 6th; the general formed his troops into four columns, and marched against Ticonderoga. The enemy's advanced guard fled on his approach, deserting a logged camp, after burning their tents, &c. The country was all a wood, through which the english army continued their march; but found it impassible with any regularity for such a body of men, and the guides were unskilful, the troops were bewildered, and the columns

columns broke, falling in upon one another. Lord Howe, at the head of the right center column, being somewhat advanced, fell in with a party of french regulars, of about 400 men, who had likewise lost themselves in their retreat, from their advanced guard: a skirmish ensued, in which the french party were defeated, with some loss. This advantage cost the english very dear, their loss was inconsiderable in numbers, but great in consequence. The gallant lord Howe was the first man that fell. This brave young nobleman was an honour to his country: his genius, courage and judgment displayed themselves in all his actions. His regiment was one of the best in America, owing entirely to the care which his lordship took of their discipline; and his instructing them particularly in the nature of the service, in that woody country. His death spread the greatest grief and consternation throughout the whole army, as he was deservedly and universally beloved and respected in it. Commodore Howe succeeded him in his title and in his virtues*.

General Abercrombie had taken several prisoners, who were unanimous in their reports, that the french had about 6000 men encamped before their fort at Ticonderoga, who were intrenching themselves, and

* There is something so noble and pathetic in the following advertisement, that any apology for inserting it is needless. It appeared in the public papers soon after lord Howe's death.

" To the gentlemen, clergy, freeholders and burgeses of the town, and county of the town of Nottingham,

As lord Howe is now absent upon the public service, and lieutenant colonel Howe is with his regiment at Louisburg, it rests upon me to beg the favour of your votes and interests, that lieutenant colonel Howe may supply the place of his late brother, as your representative in parliament.

Permit me therefore, to implore the protection of every one of you, as the mother of him, whose life has been lost in the service of his country.

Albemarle-street,
Sept. 14, 1758.

CHARLOTTE HOWE.
throwing

throwing up a breast-work ; and that they expected a reinforcement of 3000 canadians, besides indians : on this intelligence, he thought it most adviseable to lose no time, but attack them directly. Accordingly, on the 8th, he sent Mr. Clerk the engineer, across the river, opposite to the fort, in order to reconnoitre the enemy's intrenchments ; on his return, he reported, that an attack was practicable, if made before the intrenchments, &c. were finished : the general then determined to storm it that very day, without waiting for the artillery, which was not yet come up. The rangers, light infantry, and the right wing of the provincials, were posted in a line out of cannon shot of the intrenchments, in order that the regular troops destined for the attack of the intrenchments might form in their rear. The picquets were to begin the attack, sustained by the grenadiers, and they by the battalions : the whole were ordered to march up briskly, rush upon the enemy's fire, and not to give their's till they were within the enemy's breast-work.

These orders being issued, the whole army, except those left at the landing place, for the defence of the batteaus, &c. were put into motion, and advanced against the fort, which the french had made as strong as possible. It is situated on a tongue of land between lake George, and a narrow gut, which communicates with the lake Champlain. On three sides, it is surrounded with water ; and for a good part of the fourth, it has a dangerous morass in the front ; where that failed, the french had made a very strong line near eight feet high, defended by cannon, and secured by 4 or 5000 men. They had also felled a great many trees for about an hundred yards, with their branches outward. Such was the post which the engineer had reported to be so weak, that it was practicable to attack it without cannon.

The english army advanced boldly towards it. When they came up, they not only perceived, how much

much stronger the enemy's intrenchments were, than they had imagined, but also felt it very severely. The troops behaved with the utmost spirit and gallantry; but found themselves so entangled amongst the felled trees, and so uncovered for want of artillery, that they suffered most terribly in their approaches; and made so little impression on the intrenchments, that the generals, seeing their reiterated and obstinate efforts fail of success, and the troops having been upwards of four hours exposed to a most terrible fire, thought it necessary to order a retreat, to save the broken remains of their army. Near 2000 men were killed or wounded in this precipitate and bad conducted attack. General Abercrombie shewed that he could retreat as fast as he could advance; for after a most speedy flight, the army arrived the 9th at their former camp, to the southward of lake George, which was the evening after the action.

In all military expeditions; but particularly those in such a country as north America, the greatest caution, prudence, and circumspection, are absolutely necessary in the conducting them. What must that general feel, who accepts employments without abilities to execute them; who receives the public money in his pay, and in return makes a sacrifice of the death of thousands of his fellow subjects, by his blunders in the field.

But the most important enterprize in north America, was the attack on Louisburg; it had been concerted by the ministry in England very early in the year; the fleet was preparing at Portsmouth some time, and consisted of 21 ships of the line, and 20 frigates*. Admiral

* Ships.	Guns.	Ships.	Guns.
Namure	90	Terrible	74
Royal William	84	Northumberland	70
Princess Amelia	80	Vanguard	70
Dublin	74	Orford	70
	T	Burford	

Admiral Boscawen was commander in chief by sea, having under him, sir Charles Hardy, rear-admiral, and Philip Durel, esq. commodore. Major general Amherst was commander in chief of the land forces, and under him, brigadier generals Whitmore, Lawrence, and Wolfe. Colonel Bastide, chief engineer, col. Williamson, commander of the train of artillery. Admiral Boscawen sailed from England, with part of the above fleet, the 19th of february, and having joined the north american forces, at Hallifax in Nova Scotia, sailed from thence the 28th of may. The land forces aboard the fleet (which consisted of 157 sail) amounted to 14,000 men. The fleet anchored in Gabarus bay, in the island of Cape Breton, the 2d of june. That evening the general, with brigadiers Lawrence and Wolfe, reconnoitered the shore as near as he could, and made a disposition for landing in three places. The enemy had made entrenchments along the shore, mounted with cannon, and lined with a numerous infantry, where-ever there was any likelihood of the english attempting to land. It was the eighth before they could land their troops, the surff on shore had been so great, that no boat could possibly live. During the intermediate time, the

Ships.	Guns.	Frigates.
Burford	70	Juno
Somerset	70	Diana
Lancaster	70	Boreas
Devonshire	66	Faent
Bedford	64	Grammont
Captain	64	Shannon
Prince Frederick	64	Hind
Pembroke	60	Portmahon
Kingston	60	Nightengale
York	60	Kennington
Prince of Orange	60	Squirrel
Defiance	60	Beaver
Nottingham	60	Hunter
Centurian	54	Scarborough, Hawke, Ætna,
Sutherland	50	Lightning, Tyloc.

french

french had been making their entrenchments as strong as possible, they had cannonaded and threw shells, though ineffectually, at the ships. But on the 8th, the admiral finding that the surff was somewhat abated, the troops were assembled in the boats before break of day, in three divisions. The Kennington frigate was stationed on the left, and began the fire upon the enemy, followed by the Grammont, Diana, and Shannon frigates in the center, and the Sutherland and Squirrel upon the right: when this fire had continued about a quarter of an hour, the boats upon the left, rowed into shore, under the command of brigadier general Wolfe. The division on the right, under the command of brigadier general Whitmore, rowed towards the White Point; as if intending to force a landing there. The center division, under brigadier general Lawrence, made at the same time a shew of landing, at the fresh water cove. These two last divisions, which were only intended as feints, drew the enemy's attention to every part, and prevented their troops, posted along the coast, from joining those on the right, where the real landing was to be made.

The enemy, in the mean time, were not idle; as they had for some time expected such a visit, they were fully prepared to resist it. They had thrown up breast-works, at every probable place of landing, fortified at proper distances with cannon; besides an immense number of swivels of an extraordinary calibre, mounted on very strong perpendicular stocks of wood driven into the ground: they had also prepared for flanking, by erecting redans, mounted with cannon, in the most advantageous situations. Nothing of the kind was ever seen perhaps more complete, considering the number of men employed on them, than these fortifications. Besides, all the approaches to the front lines were rendered extremely difficult, by the trees they had laid very thick upon the shore,

round all the cove, with their branches lying towards the sea, for the distance of 20 or 30 yards. Nor could this stratagem be suspected at any great distance, as the place had the appearance of one continued green of little scattered branches of fir: and but very few of the guns on their lines were to be distinguished out of the reach of their metal; the rest were artificially concealed from view, with spruce branches.

The french acted very wisely, did not throw away a shot, till the boats were near in shore, and then unmasking the latent destruction, by the removal of the spruce branches, they directed the whole fire of their cannon and musketry upon them. The surff was so great, that a place could hardly be found to get a boat on shore. But notwithstanding the fire of the enemy, and the violence of the surff, brigadier Wolfe pursued his point, and landed just at their left of the cove, took post, attacked the enemy, and forced them to retreat. Many boats overset, several broke to pieces, and all the men jumped into the water to get on shore, among the first of whom was general Wolfe. As soon as the left division was debarked, the center rowed to the left, and landed. After that brigadier Whitmore with the division of the right wing, gained the shore amidst a continual discharge of shot and shells from the enemy's lines. And last of all landed the commander in chief, major general Amherst, in the rear, full of the highest satisfaction, from seeing the resolution, bravery, and success of the troops, in surmounting difficulties and despising dangers. A noble specimen of the spirit he had to depend on in the remaining part of the enterprize.

The moment the troops were landed, they attacked a strong battery near them in flank, with so much vigor, as soon forced the enemy to abandon it. And they fled on all sides; they were pursued till they got within cannon shot of the town. In a few days after

the

the landing was effected, the garrison took the reasonable precaution of setting fire to the barracks, and destroying in one general conflagration all their out-buildings ; and left nothing standing within two miles of the town walls.

General Amherst having traced out a camp, sent brigadier Wolfe with a strong detachment, round the north-east harbour, to a point of land ; five or six ships of the line, and as many frigates, which were in the harbour, could bring all their guns to bear upon the approaches of the english, besides a battery on the island in the harbour, which did the same : to silence these, general Wolfe was detached to the light house point ; where, on the 12th, he took possession of all the enemy's posts, and by his fire, he silenced the enemy's island battery on the 25th ; but the ships still continued to bear upon him.

It was with infinite difficulty and labour, that a road was made from a proper landing place, for the bringing up the artillery to the camp, when landed. The ruggedness of the ground was such, that it was near a month before it was finished. The 21st of july, one of the ships that had continued firing on general Wolfe's batteries, took fire, and blew up, and the flames communicating to the sails of two others, they were also burnt to the water's edge. This was a sad accident to the enemy, as it was not to be repaired. The siege, during the first part, went on very slowly ; but by the middle of july, the great abilities of the generals Amherst and Wolfe, had got the better of innumerable difficulties, and by a well concerted and continual fire, great part of the town was reduced to ashes. The admiral was also extremely attentive to employ his ships to the best advantage, and gave all the assistance in his power on every occasion, to the land forces : he had the 24th of july acquainted the general, that he intended sending 600 sailors in boats, into the harbour, to destroy, or bring away two french
T 3 men

men of war, that yet remained. The 25th, he accordingly sent them in, under the command of the captains Laforey and Balfour; they put off about 12 o'clock at night, and by the advantage of the foggy darkness, and the inviolable silence of the people, paddled into the harbour of Louisbourg unperceived. It had been before concerted, that there should be a prodigious brisk fire kept up from the trenches all night, to draw the enemy's attention from the harbour, which had a good effect. In their seeming security, after the boats had pushed almost as far as the grand battery, lest the ships should be too much alarmed by their oars, they took a sweep from thence towards that part of the harbour, where they knew the ships were, and presently discovered them. Each division of the boats was no sooner within sight of the two ships, captain Laforey's of *le Prudent*, and captain Balfour's of *le Bienfaisant*, than the centinels hailed them in vain, and began to fire on them; and the two captains ordered their boats to give way along side their respective ships, and to board them immediately. In short, the men gave three cheers as they pulled up along the sides, boarded them with the greatest bravery and took them; *le Prudent* being on ground, they burnt her, and towed off the *Bienfaisant* in the midst of a most formidable fire from the mortified enemy. One of the bravest and best concerted attempts that ever was undertaken; and does equal honour to the admiral who planned it, and the captains and common men, who executed it.

The 26th, the admiral came on shore, and acquainted general Amherst, that he designed sending six of his men of war into the harbour the next day, to batter the fortifications on the sea side. He was but just come on shore, when Mr. Amherst received a letter from the governor, offering to capitulate, much on the same terms as were granted to the gar-
rison

rison of Minorca ; but, in answer to it, admiral Boscawen and general Amherst returned the following answer :

“ In answer to the proposal I have just now had the honour to receive from your excellency, by the sieur Loppinot, I have only to tell your excellency, that it hath been determined by his excellency admiral Boscawen and me, that his ships shall go in to-morrow, to make a general attack upon the town. Your excellency knows very well the situation of the army and fleet ; and as his excellency the admiral, as well as I, is very desirous to prevent the effusion of blood, we give your excellency one hour, after receiving this, to determine, either to capitulate as prisoners of war, or to take upon you all the bad consequences of a defence, against this fleet and army.

BOSCAWEN,

JEFF. AMHERST.”

To which letter, the governor returned the following resolution :

“ To answer your excellencies in as few words as possible, I shall have the honour to repeat to you, that my resolution is still the same ; and that I will suffer the consequences, and sustain the attack you speak off.

Le chevalier de DRUCOUR.”

However, M. de Drucour changed his opinion ; for as soon as Messrs. Boscawen and Amherst's letter was received into Louisburg, M. Prevot, commissary general, and intendant of the colony, brought him a petition from the traders and inhabitants ; which determined him to send back the officer, who had carried his former letter to make his submission to the law of force : and accordingly the articles of ca-

pitulation * were agreed on, whereby the garrison became prisoners of war.

On

* I. The garrison of Louisburg, shall be prisoners of war, and shall be carried to England, in the ships of his britannic majesty.

II. All the artillery, ammunition, provisions, as well as the arms of any kind whatsoever, which are at present in the town of Louisburg, the islands of Cape Breton and St. John, with their appurtenances, shall be delivered, without the least damage, to such commissaries, as shall be appointed to receive them, for the use of his britannic majesty.

III. The governor shall give his orders, that the troops which are in the island of St. John, and its appurtenances, shall go on board such ships of war, as the admiral shall send to receive them.

IV. The gate called Porte Dauphine, shall be given up to the troops of his britannic majesty, to-morrow at eight o'clock in the morning, and the garrison, including all those that carried arms, drawn up at noon on the esplanade, where they shall lay down their arms, colours, implements, and ornaments of war. And the garrison shall go on board, in order to be carried to England in a convenient time.

V. The same care shall be taken of the sick and wounded, that are in the hospitals, as of those belonging to his britannic majesty.

VI. The merchants and their clerks, that have not carried arms shall be sent to France, in such manner as the admiral shall think proper.

Louisburg, july 26, 1758,

Le chevalier de DRUCOUR.

An account of the guns, mortars, shot, shells, &c. found in Louisburg.

	Louisburg.	Number.
	{ 36 pounders	38
	{ 24	97
Iron ordnance mounted	{ 18	23
on standing carriages	{ 12	19
with beds and coins,	{ 8	10
	{ 6	28
	{ 4	6
	{ 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches	6
Mortars, brads with	{ 11	1
beds,	{ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	3
	{ 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches	6
Mortars, iron with beds.	{ 11	4
	{ 9	1
		Muskets

On the 27th, three companies of grenadiers, under the command of major Farquhar, took possession of the west-gate; and general Amherst sent in brigadier Whitmore, to see the garrison lay down their arms, and post the necessary guards in the town, on the

	Number.
Muskets with accoutrements,	75,000
Powder, whole barrels,	600
Musket cartridges,	80,000
Ditto balls,—tons,	13
Round shot,	<div> <div> <div>36</div> <div>24</div> <div>12</div> <div>6</div> </div> <div> <div>1619</div> <div>1658</div> <div>4000</div> <div>2336</div> </div> </div>
Grape shot,	<div> <div>36</div> <div>24</div> <div>12</div> <div>6</div> </div> <div> <div>132</div> <div>134</div> <div>330</div> <div>530</div> </div>

State of the garrison.

Number of officers, 214. Of soldiers fit for duty, 2374. Of sick and wounded, 443. Of the sea officers, 135. Of private men and marines fit for duty, 1124. Sick and wounded belonging to the ships, 1357. Total taken prisoners, 5637.

stores,

stores, magazines, &c. All the french men of war that were in the harbour, were taken or destroyed. The Prudent, 74 guns, was burnt by the boats of the fleet : Entreprennant, 74 guns, blown up and burnt ; Capricieux, Celebre, of 64 guns each, burnt by the Entreprannant ; Bienfaisant, 64 guns, taken by the boats ; Apollo 50, Chevre, Biche, and Fidelle frigates, sunk by the enemy across the harbour's mouth. Diana 36, taken by the Boreas. Eccho 26, taken by the Juno.

In this advantageous and glorious manner ended one of the most important enterprizes of the whole war ; and with so trifling a loss on the side of the english, as about 400 men. The british ministry displayed their judgment in planning this attempt. The genius, conduct, and bravery of the commanders who executed it, was equalled by nothing, but the noble emulation and arduous perseverance, and the desperate courage of the troops they commanded ; in particular, admiral Boscawen, and the generals Amherst and Wolfe, gained immortal honour : the former received the thanks of the house of commons.

The conquest of this valuable island was of the greatest advantage to the north american colonies : Louisburg, by its situation, was a constant repository for the french privateers, who came out from thence in great numbers, and continually infested the coasts of the english settlements. But its importance to Britain in general, is still clearer ; it was the only place at which the french could cure, or from whence they could catch their cod, the fish which is taken in such great abundance in those seas. This fishery has many times been computed to bring France in upwards of 1,000000 l. sterling yearly, besides maintaining near 20,000 seamen in constant employment. This article alone sufficiently speaks its real importance. Louisburg was also the key to their settlements, on the continent of north America ;

America; all the ships that went from France to Canada touched here; before they ventured into the river St. Laurence; the french soon found how great this part of their loss proved, it being very easy for the possessors of Cape Breton and Newfoundland to intercept most of the ships that go from Europe to Canada.

In the mean time general Abercrombie, to repair the misfortune he met with at Ticonderoga, dispatched lieutenant colonel Bradstreet, with 3000 troops to make an attack upon fort Frontenac; a fortress which the french had built on lake Ontario. Mr. Bradstreet, after a difficult, but well conducted march to Oswego, embarked his troops there, and landed them within a mile of fort Frontenac, the 25th of august; the garrison made little opposition, surrendering prisoners of war the 27th. It was a square fort of 100 yards, having 60 cannon, but only half of them were mounted, and 16 small mortars. Lieutenant colonel Bradstreet found in it 120 men, besides some indians, and women and children. There was an immense quantity of provisions and goods, designed for their troops on the Ohio, and their western garrisons, which the french valued at 800,000 livres. The lieutenant colonel also took 9 vessels, from eight to eighteen guns, which were all the french had upon the lake, two of them (one richly laden) were brought to Oswego, and the rest, with all the magazines, he burnt and destroyed; together with the fort, artillery, stores, &c. agreeable to the instructions the lieutenant colonel received from general Abercrombie, finishing his expedition with equal honour to himself, and advantage to his country.

But I must here make a few remarks on the general's ordering Mr. Bradstreet to destroy fort Frontenac. That post is so strong by nature, that had he ordered it to be fortified, a garrison of 3 or 400 men to be left in it, and the vessels to be preserved and kept
cruising

cruising on the lake, it has been very justly thought that the french would have suffered much more severely. It could then have resisted any force they could have brought against it; and, by its situation, would have cut off the communication between Canada and all their settlements on the Ohio and adjacent country, which would soon have proved a fatal stroke to the french empire in those parts.

The success which lieutenant colonel Bradstreet met with at fort Frontenac, was of great assistance to the expedition which had been undertaken against fort du Quesne, under brigadier general Forbes. That gallant officer, with about 6000 men, after having taken the greatest pains to collect them at Philadelphia, marched from thence, the latter end of june, by Carlisle, Raystown, and fort Cumberland. It is inconceivable what difficulties he met with in this tedious march of some months, through an unknown woody country, continually harrassed by the enemy's indians; nothing but the most prudent circumspection in the general could have conducted the army safe, through such an almost impracticable rout. The 14th of september, major Grant, with an advanced guard of 800 men, came in sight of fort du Quesne, having marched so forward with an unaccountable design of taking the fort by a coup de main; and the party being very badly conducted, was defeated by the enemy, who sallied out of the fort, and attacked him, killing a great many, and dispersing the rest. However, the french found the indians wavered in their obedience, in proportion as the english army advanced, for general Forbes had previously engaged them to act a neutral part, after thoroughly convincing them in several skirmishes, that all their attempts upon his advanced posts, were vain: this determined the french to abandon the fort, which they did: having destroyed all the works, they fell down the Ohio the 24th of november, towards their more northern settlements,

to

to the number of 4 or 500 men; and the next day general Forbes erected the english flag on fort du Quesne, which he named Pittsburg. He directly set about re-fortifying it, as well as circumstances would permit, and left it too strong to be attacked by any force which the french had in those parts. The general's health was so extremely bad, as would permit him only to give the necessary orders, and lasted just long enough for him to see the effects of his conduct and courage. He died on his return to Philadelphia, beloved by his friends and regreted by his enemies.

In this manner we became masters of that important fortress, which was the occasion of a destructive war being kindled, and spread from one end of the world to the other. The loss of it was a terrible stroke to the french in north America; the whole country bordering on the Ohio, and its branches was directly reduced to the obedience of the english, as the indians, as soon as ever the french abandoned the fort, came and made their submission to the general. This conquest, in a manner divided their settlements of Canada and Louisiana *. On

* It is not consistent with the shortness of the plan of this work, to give an account of all the brave actions performed at sea by our privateers and single ships of war; but there is something so extraordinary in what captain Forrest, of his majesty's ship Augusta, of 60 guns, effected, that it would be unpardonable to omit it; that gentleman, with the above single ship, attacked and took the following fleet:

Ships names.	Tonnage.	Guns.	Men.
Le Mars,	500	22	108
Le Theodore,	650	18	70
Le Solide	350	12	44
Le Margarite,	350	12	51
St. Pierre,	300	14	40
Maurice le Grand,	300	12	36
La Flore,	300	12	35
La Brilliant,	200	10	20
La Mannette,	120	0	12
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 3070	<hr/> 112	<hr/> 426

This

On the whole, although general Abercrombie failed in his attempt on Ticonderoga, yet this campaign in north America was extremely glorious. That most valuable and important fortress of Louisburg, with the islands of Cape Breton and St. John conquered; fort du Quesne abandoned; and fort Frontenac destroyed: these are events which will adorn the annals of Britain to the latest posterity. No successes were ever more highly advantageous to Great Britain, than these; they were entirely national, and tended to secure our american settlements, in the greatest degree, those natural sources of our naval strength and power.

The french felt the weight of the english power in every part of the world. It was now directed and put in motion by ministers of capacity and genius. The coast of France itself had been insulted; and it was resolved in the british cabinet to continue those expeditions. Accordingly, on the 1st of August, commodore Howe, with his fleet and transports, set sail from St. Hellen's, having on board the little army, which had before been under the command of the duke of Marlborough, but was commanded now by lieut. general Bligh; with his royal highness prince Edward, who came down from London, to be present at this expedition, in quality of midshipman, and whose presence diffused an universal joy amongst the fleet and army. In a few days they came before Cherbourg, the object of the expedition; and perceived that the french had entrenched themselves by a line running from Ecceundeville, that stands about two miles from Cherbourg, along the coast for four or five miles;

This is so very amazing, that one would think it impossible for one single ship, without a friend in view, to take so many; but how much more surprising is it, when we know that this was performed within three leagues of one of their principal harbours, Pitit Guave in St. Domingo. This brave captain had before, in the same station with three men of war, attacked eight french ones, and got the victory, though not with the same advantage as is displayed above.

with

with several batteries, at proper distances. Behind these intrenchments the french troops appeared, both horse and foot; they did not advance to the open beach, as their defences did not reach so far. The bomb-ketches lying in shore, played upon their intrenchments, not only in the usual way, but also with ball mortars, which threw a great quantity of balls; these were well directed, and seemed greatly to disconcert the french cavalry. On the adjoining fields was a great number of peasants, reaping the corn; and, in a meadow directly opposite to the forces, there was one man employed in making hay with great composure, as if the landing was not worth his notice. Prince Edward went on board the *Pallas*, one of the ships intended for battering the forts; afterwards visited the bomb-ketches, that he might see the manner of working the mortars.

On the 6th, the landing was effected; the flat-bottomed boats rowing towards the shore, with more regularity than appeared in the former disembarkation in the bay of Cancalle. Commodore Howe had placed the ketches and men of war so judiciously, that they covered the landing in such an effectual manner, that the enemy durst not advance beyond their intrenchments. The troops leaped into the water, and were soon formed on the beach, with a natural breast-work before them. Never did an enemy behave in a more dastardly manner; they retired with only firing a few shot, and left the english to finish their landing in the utmost security. As soon as the greatest part of the troops were landed, it was expected that they would have marched to the village of Querqueville; but the general thought proper to remain at Erville, near the place where they landed. The troops were there encamped at night, in a very irregular manner, on a spot of ground, not more in extent than 400 paces; so that had the enemy attacked them

them in the front and on the left, they would have been obliged to fight with infinite disadvantage. This strange conduct was quite contrary to the maxim in war, never to occupy any ground, but where you can exert your whole force to the best advantage; and no good apology can be made, for hampering an army by a confined situation, in the face of a retiring enemy*.

The next day after landing, the forces entered Cherbourg without opposition, the town being open towards the land, they proceeded to destroy the fortifications, bason, mole, &c. all which had been built with excellent materials, and at a vast expence. But this service was not performed in the most regular manner; the discipline of the troops was much violated, and the inhabitants of Cherbourg, with reason complained very much of the soldiers marauding; they were courteously heard, but received no relief. Unfortunately the troops had discovered some magazines of wine, which occasioned much delay in the demolition of the works, by the drunkenness of the soldiers. But in this scene of dissolute behaviour, the foot guards exhibited a laudable example to the rest of the troops, by the strictness of their discipline. All the ships in the harbour were burnt; and the town and country round it laid under contribution, and hostages taken for 18,000 l. of it. All the cannon † were put on board a danish ship in the harbour, and sent under convoy to England. As soon as these several operations were executed, the troops re-embarked the 16th, with great expedition and equal safety.

Although this expedition to Cherbourg did the french so much damage, and was consequently so ad-

* Vide general Elliot's campaign on the coast of France, p. 77.

† About 150 pieces. Above 6000 cannon shot were found in Cherbourg, 50,000 lb. of gunpowder, besides a large quantity of shells cartridges, small shot, flints, &c. &c. &c.

vantageous to us; still the MANNER in which it was conducted, reflected no great honour on the nation. Discipline, the very soul of armies, and more especially small ones, was very much neglected. Many very false steps were committed; one I have instanced: another was, the creating a delay for the sake of marching towards Cherbourg in one body, when there was no enemy to fear. The tedious manner in which the works were demolished, owing to the neglect of discipline, is so well known, that I need not repeat it. The success which attended the expedition, was much more owing to bad conduct, and cowardly behaviour of our enemies, than to any merit that can be discovered in the conducting it*. But I should here, in justice to the commodore and sea officers, observe, that they gained great honour, by their skill in embarking and dis-embarking the troops. After having been two days in the harbour without seeing an enemy, the fleet set sail the 18th, and the 23d arrived in Weymouth road; being driven there by contrary winds.

* One instance of mismanagement I must be allowed to quote: "The general, attended by some of the commanding officers, going out to reconnoitre with a detachment of grenadiers, and a party of light horse, some of the french cavalry appeared at a distance. Captain Lindsey, of the light horse was immediately ordered to attack them; at the request (as it is said) of some young gentlemen, who were desirous of seeing the horse engage: he accordingly advanced at a brisk pace, without detaching from his front and flanks; and falling in with a body of infantry, posted behind a hedge, received a severe fire, which obliged the light horse to wheel about, and retire. Captain Lindsey was mortally wounded by a musket shot, and died, universally regretted, as a worthy young man, and one of the most intelligent, active, and industrious officers in the service. What pity so much merit should have been unnecessarily thrown away, to gratify the rash impertinent curiosity of those, who had no right to dictate on such an occasion." Elliot's campaign, p. 82.

It was his majesty's instructions, that this armament, should proceed in their attempts on the coast of France; when they set sail from Cherbourg, their design was to proceed on the coast of St. Maloes; but the contrary winds detained them some time: on the 25th of august they made the french shore; and two days after anchored in the bay of St. Lunar, about two leagues to the westward of St. Maloes, and there landed without opposition. As soon as that was effected, a party of grenadiers was detached, who burned 14 or 15 vessels in the harbour of St. Briac. The 27th, 28th, and 29th were spent in reconnoitring and deliberating on what could be done. In one of these excursions, prince Edward advanced so near St. Maloes, as to expose his person to some shot from the town. A ball grazing, en ricochet, near the place where he stood, a serjeant sprung before him, to defend his royal highness with his body; the prince was so pleased with this uncommon mark of courage and attachment, that, he rewarded the man with a handsome gratification.

Nothing could give greater surprise, than the choice that was made of St. Lunar bay to land in; by its situation, it, was very plain that St. Maloes was the object of the expedition; and it was very remarkable, that now their force was weaker than when under the duke of Marlborough, they should think of attacking that town, which before was too strong for more numerous forces; but there was something so extremely absurd and unaccountable in the whole management of this affair, that I cannot pretend to form any judgment on the designs of the commander.

The army was landed but a few days, when an attack on St. Maloes was found utterly impracticable; it was therefore resolved to penetrate further into the country; moving however, in such a manner

as

as to be near the fleet, in case it should be necessary to re-embark. What the troops were to march into the country for, was very difficult at that time, or even at this, to know; for there was no other object of importance enough to be attacked, in the neighbourhood besides, St. Maloes. The march was begun the 8th of september; and the commodore finding the bay of St. Lunar extremely dangerous for the ships to ride in, moved up to the bay of St. Cas, about three leagues to the westward. The 10th, the troops had reached the village of Malignon, being continually engaged in skirmishing with parties of the enemy, and with some loss. For by this time the duke d'Aguillon, who commanded the french troops in Brittany, with an army of 12 battalions and six squadrons of regulars, and two regiments of militia, with a train of artillery, was advanced within six miles of the english army: and, although the enemy was so near, still the english encamped with as much security and as little precaution, as if the enemy had been at the distance of 20 leagues; and although the deserters had assured the general of their being so near him.

The bay of St. Cas, being distant about three miles, was reconnoitred for re-embarkation. The Coldstream regiment of guards had already possessed the ground to the right of the village of St. Cas, by the windmill. The bay was covered by an intrenchment, which the french had made to prevent the english landing; it was proposed that this should be turned against the enemy, and some progress was made in that work; but it was interrupted for want of tools. In short, the bay was found a very improper place for embarking troops; and a proposal was made, that it should be performed from an open fair beach on the left, between St. Cas and St. Guildo. This advice was most unfortunately neglected; and the ill conse-

quences soon appeared. It was determined on the 10th, in a council of war, that they should re-embark with all expedition.

Early in the morning on the 11th, to the astonishment of every mortal, the GENERAL was beat; the ASSEMBLY following as usual; this conduct actually seemed as if the greatest pains was taken to inform the french of their departure. Had the troops decamped in the night without noise, they would in all probability have arrived at the beach before the french had known of their motions. The english were immediately in motion; yet, though the distance did not exceed three miles, the halts and interruptions were so frequent that the army did not arrive at St. Cas, before nine o'clock. The enemy did not appear till they had reached the shore: the embarkation of the troops was immediately begun; but by some mistake in orders, they were rowed too far in quest of their respective ships; so that an unnecessary space of time was lost; and when they did return, they were most infamously employed in carrying away horses and cows, instead of men; notwithstanding all the attention and care of the SEA-OFFICERS, who behaved extremely well. The french first appeared by a windmill to the left; and played on the troops embarking, from a battery of ten guns, and eight mortars. They soon after marched down a hollow way, to attack the english; but as soon as they were on the beach, the ships of the fleet played on them so severely, as to put them into great confusion; but they formed in a long line against the english, as they came down from the hollow way. All the grenadiers of the army, and one half of the first regiment of guards, remained on shore, under the command of major general Dury; who was advised to attack the enemy with bayonets fixed, before a considerable number of them had arrived on the beach; but this
advice

advice was neglected, and the opportunity lost. The engagement began with an irregular fire from right to left; and after a short, but unequal contest, the ammunition of the english soldiers, which was far from being complete, failed; the men were then seized with a panic, they were soon broke and fled in the utmost confusion. Sir John Armitage was shot thro' the head at the beginning of the action; many of the officers fell; and a great number of men were slain. It soon became a dreadful carnage: some ran into the sea, and endeavoured to save their lives, by swimming towards the boats, which were ordered to give them all possible assistance. Some officers swam near two miles before they were taken up; general Dury perished in the sea. The men were butchered both on the shore and in the water; many in swimming were killed by the shot and shells from the french cannon and mortars. Several of the frigates continued, during this time, to fire on the french army, and great part of the carnage was owing to that; for they being silenced by a signal from the commodore, the french officers and soldiers behaved instantly with the greatest generosity and moderation, in giving immediate quarter and protection to the conquered; such a noble behaviour as the english had very little reason to expect, in return for their marauding, pillaging, burning, and other excesses. We had a thousand choice troops killed, wounded, and taken prisoners, and considering the shot from the frigates, which made lanes through the enemy, their loss could not be much less. One instance of heroic bravery, I must be allowed to quote. Commodore lord Howe, perceiving that the sailors in the boats were a little staggered by the enemy's fire, exhibited a remarkable instance of intrepidity, by ordering himself to be rowed in his own boat

through the thickest of the fire, and bringing off as many men as it would carry.

Such was the unfortunate end of this expedition to the coast of France. The loss was but trifling; but then it cast a disreputation on our arms; and dispirited the people, as much as it exulted those of France. It might have been more successful; nay, we may almost say it would have been so; had the army been conducted in a different manner; but never was such weakness discovered in any military expedition. What could the general continue his operations for after the design upon St. Maloes was laid aside? Why did he not re-imbark immediately, and proceed to a more proper place for making an attempt? What reason can be given for neglecting every piece of intelligence that was received of the enemy's force and motions; for communicating to them all those midnight motions by beat of drum, when all possible care ought to have been taken to prevent them from procuring that knowledge? For what reason did the troops loiter away seven hours in a march only of three miles! And why were they re-imbarked at a place where no measures had been taken for their cover or defence? These queries, I believe, will be very difficult to answer. In short, such folly and indiscretion appeared throughout this expedition, that it is with concern, I am obliged to confess, neither Britain nor her general gained any great honour by it. Such military enterprizes, in a country intirely unknown; and in the face of a superior enemy, will never be attended with either honour or advantage to the nation, unless conducted by a commander of approved valour, conduct, and experience. In these expeditions every moment is critical; and the whole army ought on such occasions to go through all their manœuvres with the same alertness and circumspection as if an enemy was in fight.

fight. It should be remembered, that oftentimes every peasant in the country proves a dangerous one; and that nothing will ballance all the disadvantages, which an invading army lies under; but the greatest caution, the strictest discipline, and the never omitting to catch the decisive moment, in which every movement and action can only with propriety be made.

C H A P. XVI.

Campaign on the Rhine. Army under duke Ferdinand passes that river. Battle of Crevelt. Battle of Sanderhausen. Battle of Meer. General Inhoff joins the english forces under the duke of Marlborough. Hanoverian army repasses the Rhine. Occupies the posts on the Lippe. Battle of Lanwerenbagen. The two armies go into winter quarters. Remarks on the campaign.

THE war this campaign contained many great actions, in every part of the world ; but particularly in Germany. I left duke Ferdinand of Brunswick at the head of the hanoverians driving the french army, under the marshal prince de Clermont, before him, which had already passed the Rhine. The duke prepared with all expedition to pass it after them : and to the astonishment of all Europe he effected it in the face of a superior army, and without loss.

The 25th of may, the greatest part of his army was encamped at Notteln ; they marched from thence to Coesveld, and the head quarters were fixed at Dulmen, the 27th. A detachment of several battalions and squadrons, under major general Wangenheim, assembled the 26th at Dorsten, with orders to advance himself to the gates of Dusseldorp ; and to cause a corps under general Scheither to pass the Rhine at Duyssbourg. This passage was executed in the night, between the 29th and 30th, with such success, that Scheither having attacked with bayonets, three battalions of french who opposed him, entirely defeated them. On the 29th, the grand army marched
early

early in the morning from Dulmen towards Dorsten, and encamped at Limbeke, from whence lieutenant general Wutgenau was detached towards Wessel, with a body of infantry and cavalry, he advanced by Raesveld and encamped at Ringenburg. In the mean time, his serene highness the duke himself, went to Boecholt; and the advanced guard of the army marched on the 30th to Emmerick, being followed by the rest of the army, which was encamped at Vraßelt; and in the evening of the 31st, the whole army was in motion to pass the Rhine. The duke's design was to cross it at Lobit, but an unforeseen accident prevented him: however, in the night of the 1st of june, the passage was successfully effected near Herven.

The main army having thus passed, the prince ordered the bridge to be carried up the river to Rees, and there laid on the 6th, whilst a corps under general Durchtlechen crossed the river in boats; as soon as the bridge was finished at Rees, the detachment under general Wutgenau also passed the river; and next day, another under general Sporken crossed. On the 7th, the whole army marched from Goch, and encamped at Wees. The next day it proceeded to Uden, and marched to attack the enemy, who, as soon as the duke had passed the Rhine, retired into a very strong camp on the eminences at Zanten; and on the 10th, the two armies were in sight of each other; the next day the prince reconnoitred the french camp, and found it accessible only on the left, towards Guilders; by a masterly motion, he obliged the prince of Clermont to quit this advantageous camp at Rheinburg, and to retire towards Meurs, in the night of the 12th. The duke then gave a new possession to his army, by occupying some heights, commonly called St. Anthony's mountains, having the town of Meurs in his front, at two leagues distance, and the right towards the village of St.

St. Jannigsberg; by the 14th of june, this position was effected; and the next day the duke was informed that the french army was advancing in four columns on his right; on which intelligence, the whole hano-verian army was immediately drawn up in order of battle. His highness went himself to reconnoitre, and distinctly saw a large body of french coming over the plain of Hulste, and marching towards Crevelt; but not knowing whether it was the whole army, or only a detachment, he halted till towards the evening, when he received certain information, that the french army had marched towards Nuys, and that the troops which he saw was a detachment sent to take possession of the post of Crevelt.

His serene highness was surprised to find that the prince of Clermont should send this detachment at so great a distance from his grand army; he wanted to penetrate into the designs of the french general, whether the prince would advance towards Crevelt, or whether the detachment there would fall back on the prince of Clermont. His highness, that he might be perfectly acquainted with the designs of that general; ordered the prince of Holstein, with three battalions and fifteen squadrons, to march early in the morning of the 18th, towards Hulste; and general Wangenheim, with four battalions and four squadrons, to cross the Rhine at Duysbourg, and advance towards Meurs; he also detached the hereditary prince of Brunswick, with 12 battalions and 12 squadrons, the 19th, towards Kempen, whilst the prince of Holstein advanced towards Hulste. The hereditary prince was also ordered, that in case he perceived no change in the disposition of the enemy's army or detachment, he should march the next day directly towards Ruremond, and endeavour to possess himself of a magazine there. Duke Ferdinand himself then reconnoitered the enemy at Kempen the next day; and perceived some movements in the camp

camp of M. St. Germain, who commanded the detachment at Crevelt, which inclined him to believe, that general intended to march against the prince of Holstein at Hulfte; and was soon after informed, that the whole french army had quitted Nuys, and were advanced to Crevelt; this motion of the enemy was made in consequence of the duke's detachments; and he instantly took such measures, as the plan he had formed required. All the troops he could dispose of were united the 20th in camp, the right of which extended towards Kempen, and the left towards Hulfte. On the 21st, M. de St. Germain's corps decamped, and marched towards Aurad, where it joined their grand army. In making this motion, they abandoned the town of Crevelt, which the duke immediately took possession of. The 22d he reconnoitered the enemy on the side of St. Anthony, and resolved to march the next day to attack them in their camp. His serene highness gave the command of his left wing, consisting of 18 battalions and 28 squadrons, to lieutenant general Sporken: The right wing, consisting of 24 squadrons and 16 battalions, he entrusted to the prince of Holstein and general Wangenheim, and the infantry was commanded by the hereditary prince.

The french army was strongly situated, their right wing extended towards a very thick wood, having in its front the village of Ravensgaet, and the town of Crevelt; its left bordered on another thick wood, near the town of Anrad, having before the front of the whole army a strong retrenchment, with a fosse; behind which was placed their cannon.

The 23d, at four in the morning, the hanoverian army began to move; its right advanced in two columns; one by the village of St. Anthony, and the other crossed the wood, and took the rout of Suchvelen. Its left advanced in one column, a little to the right of Crevelt. The strength of the enemy's front,

front, determined the duke to make his attack at the village of Anrad ; but to rise doubts in the enemy, he ordered general Sporcken, who commanded the left of his line of battle ; and general Oberg, who commanded the center, (as soon as his highness himself began the attack at Anrad) to attack the front of the enemy, and do their utmost to penetrate it ; recommending to them to make good use of their heavy artillery, in order to oblige the french to employ their attention as much on their right wing and center, as on their left, and to engage and divide their attention equally in three different places, which would prevent them from sending any reinforcement to the real attack, for fear of weakening themselves, in some part or other, where he might make impression.

These dispositions being made, his serene highness put himself at the head of the grenadiers of the right wing ; and having arrived at Anrad, drew the whole wing up in order of battle, in the plain before that village. It was one o'clock at noon before the enemy began to act. The duke's artillery being greatly superior to that of the french, facilitated the means of his infantry's forming themselves in greater security ; but this was not effected till after a cannonade, as violent as it was well supported, and the enemy's resistance was very brave : but the duke found that he must use small arms, to drive the enemy entirely from their intrenchments ; wherefore the hereditary prince put himself at the head of the first line, and advanced with the whole front directly towards them ; the fire then became extremely hot on each side, and neither discontinued, or in any degree diminished for two hours and an half ; and about five o'clock in the afternoon, the prince assisted by the generals Kilmansegge and Wangenheim, forced two ditches in the front of the enemy, that were in a wood ; and the other regiments of infantry did the same, all along
their

their front ; upon which, that part of the enemy's infantry retired in the greatest confusion ; but was covered by their horse, although the hanoverian artillery kept a terrible fire on them all the while. During the whole affair, the artillery of the left and center, under generals Sporcken and Oberg, had done great execution ; but as the distance they were from the duke himself, made them uncertain what turn affairs had taken with him, they never ventured to attack the enemy's front opposite to them ; so that the enemy's right wing and center retired in the greatest order towards Nueys, which was the rout of the rest of their army in the flight.

Seven thousand of the best troops of France were either killed, wounded, or taken prisoners in this battle : and to the great concern both of the french, and even of their enemies, the count de Gisors, only son of the marshal duke de Bellisle, not above 25 years of age, newly married to the heiress of an illustrious house, himself the last hope of a most noble family, was mortally wounded at the head of his regiment, which followed his heroic example, in making incredible efforts. This amiable young nobleman, who fell in his first campaign, was one of the best and most accomplished men that did honour to his country in the present *.

One capital mistake in the disposition of the prince de Clermont, and which we have reason to believe, in great part, occasioned his defeat, was his not posting a strong corps at the entrance into the wood, on the left of Anrad. Had the flank of his left been as strong as his whole line of front, duke Ferdinand would never have dared to attack him.

The manœuvres of that commander, preceding the battle, were excellent ; and his conduct in it, such as did the greatest honour to his military capacity, and the bravery of his troops : but still the victory, though great, was far from being either
entire

* Vide appendix

entire or decisive : the french army being near their own frontiers, were very soon strongly reinforced ; so that they were enabled soon to oppose the hano-verian army again, in a defensive manner ; and even sent a considerable reinforcement to their army under the prince de Soubise, on the other side of the Rhine, which was ravaging the landgraviate of Hesse.

In the mean time, duke Ferdinand followed his blow ; and having passed the Rhine with a large detachment, appeared, on the 28th of June, before Dusseldorp, a city of great importance, situated on that river. The garrison of 2000 men, marched out on honourable terms, the 8th of July, after sustaining a very severe bombardment. * The prince left a garrison in it, and threw a bridge of boats over the river ; which he knew would be of great service to him, in case of being obliged to repass it. The army of France, with its reinforcements, received a new commander ; the prince of Clermont was removed, and marshal Contades appointed commander in chief.

Duke Ferdinand was in hopes that the prince of Ysenburg, who commanded the heffian troops against the prince de Soubise, would find him employment for some time. He resolved therefore to transfer the seat of war, from the Rhine to the Maes, think-

* Extract from a letter of the duke de Belleisle's to marshal Contades, july 15, 1758.

" You tell me, that you cannot bring yourself to imagine, that a town, such as Dusseldorp, should surrender without being besieged. We are still more surprised, that the count Clermont suffered it, having it absolutely in his power to have prevented it, by making use of the means which he had at hand ; (and it will still be the more grievous, if, what I am afraid of, we have left our artillery and military stores of all kinds there) the enemy having no troops on the right side of the river, while we had always a free communication with that city. The consequences of the loss, or keeping of Dusseldorp, were so essential and decisive, that they could not escape the general, or even private men. It was easy to foresee the embarrass it would occasion.

ing,

ing, that by carrying the war into the enemies country, he might draw the french from the Rhine, and oblige the prince de Soubise to come to the assistance of the main army, under the marshal Contades. To execute this plan, the duke marched towards Ruremond, the latter end of july; but the long and heavy rains, which had fell for some time past, retarded his motions extremely; and in the mean time an unfortunate piece of news arrived, which obliged him to change his plan of operations.

The duke de Broglie had been sent by marshal Contades, with a strong detachment, to reinforce the prince of Soubise in Hesse. Prince Ysenburg commanded 7000 Hessians against him. The french, amounting to 12000 men, attacked the prince on the 23d of july, and after a most obstinate fight, gained a victory. This affair was attended with very bad consequences; for it gave the french the possession of the Weser, and opened them a road into Westphalia; where they might attack the reinforcement of english troops, under the command of the duke of Marlborough, which was marching to join prince Ferdinand. In this situation, the prince had no other option, but a victory over the french, or to repass the Rhine. The former was extremely difficult to attempt, for Contades declined coming to an engagement, in the most careful manner; and it was dangerous to remain long in a position, where he had the french army on one wing, and the fortress of Guelders on the other, besides several posts, within reach of obstructing the convoys and subsistence of his army. His highness determined to march back to the Rhine.

In the mean time, general Inhoff had been some time posted on the right of the Rhine, in a strong camp near Meer; with a design to cover the bridge at Rees; to secure a considerable magazine; and to keep open a communication between the english reinforcements,

inforcements, and the duke's army ; his corps did not amount to quite six battalions, and four squadrons, together about 3000 men. M. de Chevert, one of the greatest generals at that time, in the french army, had also some time before, passed the Rhine, with an intention of making himself master of Dusseldorp ; but the heavy rains, and some other cross accidents, having frustrated his scheme, he instantly formed another, of more importance. It was to drive general Inhoff from his strong post ; to burn the bridge at Rees ; to make himself master of the magazine ; and to cut off the communication of the english troops from the duke's army. A most noble and judicious project, and worthy of the general who formed it. He collected some straggling detachments, and his whole corps amounted to 12000 men.

Duke Ferdinand would have reinforced Inhoff, had it been practicable ; but his army was too much fatigued, to begin such a march, as would have been necessary ; and the extraordinary overflowings of the Rhine, which rendered the bridge at Rees impassable, was an additional difficulty ; so that the general had no resource, but in his own good conduct, and the great bravery of his troops. On the 4th of august, he received intelligence that the enemy was to pass the Lippe, and would march to Rees directly. As he knew they might get thither by turning his camp ; he resolved to decamp, to cover that place ; which he accordingly did ; but hearing nothing farther of the enemy, and believing his former advices false, he returned to his old camp at Meer ; where he had no sooner placed his advanced guards, but they found themselves engaged with the enemy, who had advanced from Wesel.

Inhoff's front was covered with coppices and ditches ; with a rising ground on his right, from whence

whence he perceived that the french were marching into that difficult ground ; he resolved to attack them as soon as they entered it, well knowing the great difference there is in attacking and being attacked. He accordingly placed a regiment upon his right, in a coppice, in order to fall upon the left of the enemy when quite uncovered ; and gave orders to the other regiments to march, with drums beating up to the enemy, and to attack them with bayonets, as soon as they should hear the fire of that in the coppice on the right. These judicious orders being executed by the whole corps, with the utmost spirit, had so great an effect, that after a resistance of about half an hour, the enemy left the field of battle, eleven pieces of cannon, many prisoners, and most of their ammunition and baggage, to the hanoverians, who drove them under the cannon of Wesel. General Inhoff delayed not a moment pursuing this victory, so gloriously won over so great a superiority. He directly took proper care to secure his magazines, and then quitted his post at Meer, and marched with the utmost diligence, towards the rout of the english forces, and joined them safely ; an event, which had hitherto been attended with so much difficulty.

During this interim, prince Ferdinand marched his army still nearer the Maese, and encamped between Ruremond and Schwalm, the latter end of july ; the enemy continuing in their camp at Dalem. The beginning of august, he marched towards Dulcken, and finding it necessary to attack the post of Watchtendonck, the hereditary prince prepared to execute that piece of service. This place is an island, surrounded by the Niers, of a very difficult approach, although without fortifications. That gallant young prince, not being able immediately to get down the bridge, the enemy had drawn up, without giving them time to recollect themselves ; threw himself into the river, and passed it with some companies of grenadiers,

nadiers, who followed his example, and drove the french away with their bayonets ; and in the evening the army passed the bridges there. On the 4th, it marched to Rhyenberg, and in two days it reached Santen. Prince Ferdinand intended to have passed the Rhine at Rhyenberg, but the prodigious flood in the river, occasioned by continual rains, rendered it impracticable ; and the same reason made it impossible to use the bridge at Rees. It was therefore found necessary to march further down ; and in the night between the 8th and 9th, a bridge was laid over the river at Griethuysen. The french foreseeing the duke's design, had prepared some boats, of a particular invention, to demolish it, which they sent down the river from Wesel ; but they were all destroyed by some armed barks, before they could put their design in execution. In short, prince Ferdinand passed this famous river the 10th, without the least opposition from the french ; so admirably had he laid his plan.

The prince, as soon as he was on the other side of the Rhine, withdrew his garrison from Dusseldorf ; of which place the french took immediate possession. Marshal Contades also passed the Rhine, at Wesel, the 12th and 13th. The prince took possession of all the posts on the Lippe, and was able to keep the french army from attempting to penetrate any further on that side. Contades was encamped for some time between Recklinghausen and Dortmund ; and the prince between Coesfeld and Dulmen. The other division of the french forces, under the prince de Soubise, had made but little progress in Hesse Cassel, where the prince of Ysenburg still kept him at bay ; but, on the 10th and 11th of september Soubise took possession of Gottingen, and advanced as far as Eimbeck, near which place, the prince of Ysenburg was encamped. This general's business was to protect the course of the Weser, and to cover the electo-
rate

rate of Hanover. It was here that the hanoverian posts were weakest. The french had no hopes of penetrating into Hanover by the Lippe, which prince Ferdinand guarded himself; but it appeared more practicable to drive the prince of Ysenburg from his posts. To accomplish this, marshal Contades sent a strong detachment to the prince de Soubise, which augmented his army to 30,000 men. Prince Ferdinand aware of the enemy's design, detached general Oberg, with a strong reinforcement to join prince Ysenburg; but notwithstanding this, the whole force of the allies in Hesse did not exceed 15,000 men. Soon after Oberg's arrival near Cassel, he encamped near Lanwerenhagen, behind Lutternberg; and finding that the french were preparing to attack him, he drew up his troops in order of battle; with his right to the Fulde, and his left to a thicket upon an eminence: In this situation he was attacked on the 30th of september, by the whole french army, and after a vigorous resistance was obliged to retire, with the loss of 1500 men to Munden; but in such good order that his defeat was far from being total.

Had any but the most skilful general commanded the allied army; this unfortunate affair would, in all probability, have been of fatal consequence: but prince Ferdinand, by having established the most ready communications all along the Lippe, deprived the french of an opportunity of making use of their advantage: He marched with the utmost expedition towards Rheda, and prince Ysenburg falling back, joined him with his troops, and by this junction covered the Weser, without losing any thing on the side of the Rhine. The prince well knew, that these movements rather uncovered the electorate of Hanover: but he also foresaw, that the french would not be able to make any establishment in it; they only infested the country with their light troops, who were

sent by the marshal Contades*, to carry off and destroy all the provisions and forage in that country, as well as all Westphalia. This conduct of the french general was in consequence of a plan formed between him and the duke de Belleisle, to reduce all

* The marshal duke de Belleisle, secretary at war to the french king, in a letter to marshal Contades, of the 26th of september, writes,

" You must, at any rate, consume all sort of subsistence on the higher Lippe, in the neighbourhood of Paderborn, and in the country which lies between the Lippe, Paderborn, and Warfbourg; this will be so much subsistence taken from the enemy, from this day to the end of october. You must destroy every thing that you cannot consume, so as to make a desert of all Westphalia, from Lipstadt and Munster, as far as the Rhine, on one hand, and on the other, from the higher Lippe and Paderborn, as far as Cassel; that the enemy may find it quite impracticable to direct their march to the Rhine, or the lower Roer; and this with regard to your army; and with regard to the army under M. de Soubise, that they may not have it in their power to take possession of Cassel, and much less to march to Marburg, or to the quarters which he will have along the Lohn, or to those which you will occupy, from the lower part of the left side of the Roer, and on the right side of the Rhine, as far as Dusseldorp, and at Cologne."

On the 30th of october, he again writes:

" — First, You are acquainted with all our political views. Secondly, You know the present situation of all our allies. Thirdly, you know the necessity of consuming, or destroying, as far as is possible, all the subsistence, especially the forage, betwixt the Weser and the Rhine, on the one hand; and on the other, betwixt the Lippe, the bishopric of Paderborn, the Dymel, the Fulda, and the Nerra; and so to make a desert of Westphalia and Hesse," that the enemy may not be able by any means, to march, with any considerable force, either towards the Rhine or the Lohn; and that our troops may pass the winter quietly in their quarters: for, as it is now unquestionable, that we cannot make any advances into Germany this year, our principal object must be to refresh our troops, as soon as possible, that we may be able to make war the following year with more vigor, and take the field very early: it will be no small matter, if we shall be able, with a great deal of pains, constant care, and œconomy, to find the means of supporting all our horse of every kind, until the month of june." For several other extracts from these notable letters, Vide the appendix.

Westphalia,

Westphalia, Hesse, and the neighbouring countries to a desert, in order to prevent prince Ferdinand from marching in the beginning of the next campaign to the Rhine, or the Lohn, and to keep their own quarters undisturbed in the winter. But this infamous scheme was in a great part defeated by the vigilance good conduct of that gallant young prince.

In this successful manner ended the campaign on the Rhine. I have not interrupted my narrative of it, to make way for the other military transactions in Germany, in their chronological order, as that would have rendered it more obscure, the operations of which, I have given an account, being so blended together, that they could not with propriety be separated. Seldom has the conduct of any general appeared more conspicuously great, in a defensive campaign, than that of prince Ferdinand in this. Those admirable movements, which enabled him to pass the Rhine without loss, in the face of a superior army; to gain a signal victory over it; to maintain his ground against it, when reinforced, and rendered still more superior; to repass the Rhine with the utmost safety; and lastly, to chuse his posts in so judicious a manner on the Lippe, as to prevent the enemy from penetrating further than that river, and this even after they had gained a victory over a large detachment of his army. In short, these several actions, with a thousand skilful manœuvres that must in consequence attend them, are together justly reckoned a perfect model of a defensive campaign.

C H A P. XVII.

King of Prussia marches against the russians. Conduct of marshal Daun. Battle of Zorndorff. King of Prussia marches into Saxony. Battle of Hochkirchen. Fine march of his prussian majesty to relieve Silesia. Raises the sieges of Neiss and Cosel. Motions of marshal Daun. Crosses the Elbe. Marches towards Dresden. Invests that city. Lipsick and Torgau besieged. Brave conduct of count Schmettau. Suburbs of Dresden burnt. King of Prussia marches into Saxony. Raises the sieges of Dresden, Lipsick, and Torgau. Austrians and imperialists retire out of Saxony. Russians and Swedes retire into winter quarters. Reflections. Affairs in England. Goree taken. Reflections on the events of the year 1758.

THE affairs of the king of Prussia were now greatly changed. At the beginning of the campaign, he acted offensively, in the utmost extent of the word; but now he found himself obliged to act on the defensive: every moment was to him critical. The russians, who had been for several months marching through Poland and Prussia, bent their course at last, as if they designed to enter Silesia; but they suddenly turned towards Brandenburg, and laid siege to Custrin, a little town on the Elbe, almost without fortifications; but which, an army of near 90,000 russians were not able in some weeks to reduce. We may compare their operations at this siege, with those under Peter the Great at Narva. The russians at this day, are little better than barbarians, in point of military skill, except several general officers, many of them foreigners; but as men they are worse.

These

These wretches, whose actions are a disgrace to human nature, had marked their road through Prussia and Brandenburg, by the most horrible barbarities; to make up for their want of skill in sieges, they had brought all their formidable train of artillery to batter this little town. They threw such an immense quantity of bombs and red hot balls into it, that it was soon on fire in every quarter; they fell like hail in the streets, and the miserable inhabitants, every where meeting danger, but no where safety, left their ruinous habitations, and fled many of them naked out of the town, on that side which was not invested. But the brave governor, with the greatest courage and fidelity, defended the ruins of the place, with the utmost firmness. The prussian general, count Dohna was posted at Francfort; but all he could do, against a force so much superior to his own, was only to observe their motions.

Never were the affairs of his prussian majesty more critical. An army of 90,000 russians, was within three days march of Berlin: in Pomerania, the swedes were greatly superior to the generals Weedel and Mantuefel, who commanded the prussian troops in that province: the army of the empire, which had been reinforced with a great body of the austrians, under general Haddick, had advanced into Saxony, and every day approached nearer to prince Henry; who was strongly intrenched at Dippoldswalde, with 20,000 men to cover Dresden, and commanded the course of the Elbe. Marshal Daun, foreseeing many difficulties in pursuing the king of Prussia, resolved to march into Saxony, and in conjunction with the army of the empire, under the duke of Deux Ponts, and endeavour to drive prince Henry from his strong post, and get possession of Dresden; and by that means drive the king of Prussia entirely out of Saxony, which would be depriving him of the only resource for carrying on the war. These reasons determined

him. He left a large body of troops under the generals Harsch and de Ville, in the southern part of Silesia, to draw the attention of the prussians that way, and marched himself towards Saxony, through Lusatia, by Zittau, Gorlitz, and Bautzen; however, he was not able to make prince Henry change his advantageous position.

In the mean time, the prussian monarch being arrived at Frankfort, lost not a moment's time to march against the russians. On the 23d of august he passed the Oder, at Gatavise; and after their prodigious march, rested his army the 24th, and in the evening advanced to Dirmitzel, where he encamped, and made his dispositions for attacking the enemy the next day; early in the morning, he broke up his camp, and marched forward, in order to wind round the enemy's left flank; in its way, the army passed the small river Mitzel: afterwards it filed off by the forest of Massin, and the village of Bazels into the plain, where both infantry and cavalry spreading themselves on the left flank, till they arrived at Zorndorff; the king then thought that he was come on the back of the enemy, and gave orders for the attack.

The russian generals foreseeing his design, had broke up the siege of Custrin, and marched towards the villages of Zwicker and Zorndorff, where the ground not admitting them to extend in front, they had drawn up their army very judiciously in four lines, forming a front on every side, and surrounded by cannon and chevaux de frize: the village of Zwicker covered their right flanks, beyond which their cavalry reached. Prince Maurice of Anhalt Dessau commanded the first line of the prussians, under the king; lieutenant general Manteufel, the left wing of infantry; and general Seydlitz conducted the cavalry of that wing.

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These were the positions of the two armies, when the king gave the word for the attack. The russians were an enemy he had never personally engaged before; but his troops saw every where such horrid marks of their cruelty, as spurred them on with the most animated ardor to engage, and be revenged on those barbarians. Every thing that was dear to the king of Prussia depended on this day; if he lost it, the consequences must be fatal, considering the vast superiority of his enemies in Saxony. In short, all his dominions were at stake.

The battle began on the 25th of august, at nine o'clock in the morning. The prussian infantry began to attack the village under cover of an uninterrupted and terrible fire of cannon and mortars, which rained on the right wing of the russians for two hours without the least intermission. Never was there a more dreadful cannonade; the russian foot, which although raw and unexperienced, sustained a most shocking slaughter; whole ranks fell, and their places were instantly supplied by new regiments. Their first line continued immoveable, till they had fired away all their charges, and then rushed forward on the prussian infantry; which suddenly, and with an unaccountable panic gave way, in the presence of their sovereign, before the broken battalions of the Muscovites, and after their own cannonade had in a manner already gained the victory. This was now the critical moment, on which every thing depended; the battle was in suspense, and the prussian infantry retreating. The event of that great day depended on an instant; it was neglected by the russian general; but the king of Prussia improved it: Had general Fermor directly brought on his horse, to disperse the retiring battalions of his enemy, this day had been fatal to the prussian greatness; but the king, by a masterly and rapid motion, brought all the cavalry of his right wing to the center, which, with general Seydlitz at their

their head, made a most furious attack upon the Muscovite foot, uncovered by their horse, and drove them back with a most miserable slaughter: this gave the repulsed infantry time to recollect and form themselves; returning to the charge with a rage, exasperated by their late disgrace, they very soon changed the fortune of the day. The russians being thrown into the most terrible confusion, plundered their own baggage, which was between the lines, and intoxicated themselves with brandy, they no longer distinguished friends from foes, but fired upon each other; and being crammed together in a narrow space, a horrible and undistinguishing carnage ensued, as well by sword and bayonet, as by the prussian artillery, charged with cartridge shot, which fired continually on them, at not 20 yards distance. Still they obstinately persisted in not quitting the ground; but one of their generals towards the evening, with a chosen corps made a judicious attack on the right wing of the prussians; that officer lost most of his men, but by drawing the king's attention that way, the broken remains of their infantry had leisure to withdraw to a new post in the night for rallying the rest of their army.

The loss of the prussians did not exceed 2000 men, killed, wounded, and prisoners; but that of the russians amounted to 10,000 dead on the spot; 10,000 wounded, most of them mortally; and about 2000 prisoners: of two particular regiments, which before the battle consisted of 4600 men, only 1500 were left. Their loss in this dreadful day, amounted in the whole to upwards of 22,000 men.

The next day, the king of prussia renewed the attack, by a very brisk cannonade; but the russians finding no safety in any thing but a retreat, marched to Landsberg on the frontiers of Poland. Never was victory more complete. An immense train of artillery, 37 colours, five standards, and several kettle-drums,

drums, and their military chest, containing 200,000 l. sterl. were taken. Yet, the austrians warmly asserted, that the russians gained the victory; but nothing spoke so plainly on whose side it fell, as its consequences; the king cleared that part of his dominions from his enemies, and was enabled to march to the assistance of the other; general Fermor's asking leave * to bury his

* As soon as the battle was over, general Fermor wrote the following letter to count Dohna.

"As this day's battle hath left many dead to be buried, and many wounded men to be dressed on both sides, I have thought proper to ask your excellency, whether it would not be fit to conclude a suspension of arms for two or three days? General Brown, who is extremely weak by reason of his wounds, having need of a room and other conveniences, which are necessary in his present situation, most humbly entreats his majesty to send a passport for him and his attendants, that he may remove to a proper place. I have the honour to be, &c.

Camp, aug. 14,
(25 N. S. 1758.)

Count FERMOR."

Count DOHNA's answer.

"I have the honour to answer the letter which your excellency was pleased to write to me yesterday; and in consequence of it to inform you, that the king, my master, having gained the battle, and remained master of the field, his majesty will not fail to give the necessary orders for burying the dead, and taking care of the wounded on both sides. His majesty thinks that a suspension of arms is usual in the case of a siege, but not after a battle. His excellency general Brown, if still alive, shall have the passports he asks most readily; and all possible relief shall be given to the other generals who are prisoners.

The cruel burning of all the villages, which is not yet discontinued, shews an intention not to spare the king's estates in any shape: but I shall not now enter into repetitions, on a subject I have so often mentioned. I shall only desire your excellency to consider, what consequences such cruelties may have, if a stop be not put to them. I have the honour to be, &c.

Camp, aug. 26,
1758.

Count DOHNA."

Concerning what's mentioned in this letter of the cruelties of the russians, the following extract from the Berlin Gazette will set it in a true light.

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his dead ; the number of prisoners of rank that were taken ; all concur, in sufficiently speaking who was victor in this bloody engagement. Among the prisoners of rank, were the generals de Soltikoff, deChermicheaux, Manteuffel, Tieremhausen, Chievres, &c.

In the mean time, marshal Daun, to put his design in execution of doing his utmost to drive prince Henry from his advantageous post at Dippoldswalde, encamped his army at Stolpen, to the eastward of the Elbe ; he chose this position to cut off all communication between Bautzen and Dresden ; it also favoured

“ The Konigsberg gazette denies the cruelties with which the russians are charged, and pretends to justify those which are too notorious not to be acknowledged, by saying, that the prussians themselves have set fire to the villages to cover their march. But a reason of war ought to be distinguished from an unnecessary cruelty. The former obliged the prussians to burn the single village of Schaumbourg ; but what colour can the russians give to their burning the villages of Zorndorff, Zicher, Wilkerdorff, Blumberg, Kutzdorff, Quartchen and Birckenbusch, all which were in flames at the same time, and of which, the greatest part of the inhabitants were some killed, and others thrown into the flames. The public hath already been informed, of the cruelties committed last june, by general Demikow, in Pomerania, and the New Marche. Above an hundred towns or villages were pillaged, and many women carried off and ravished. The russians also set fire to the village of Furstgnau, and killed the farmer's wife : Vorbruch, and the suburbs of Driesen, were likewise reduced to ashes. In the beginning of july, they pillaged the town of Friedeburgh, burnt the mill of Altenflies, and wounded the gardener of the bailiwick of Driesen. On the approach of the prussians, they turned the environs of Custrin into a desert, burnt the seven villages abovementioned, killed the farmer of Tamsel, and at Blumberg and Camin massacred many peasants, and even infants with their mothers, whose mutilated bodies were found in the houses and barns. The churches have not been spared ; they opened even graves and vaults, to strip the dead ; which they did particularly at Camin and Birckholtz, where they stripped the bodies of general Schlaberndorf, and general Ruitz, who were buried there. It will not be thought strange, that the name of barbarians should be given to persons capable of such cruelties.”

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the operations of the army under general Laudohn on the confines of Brandenburg ; and of generals Harfch and de Ville, in the southern parts of Silesia ; as he drew the attention of the prussian forces to the northern parts of that duchy.

To defeat all these excellent schemes, his prussian majesty had no sooner fought the battle of Zorndorf, than he began a rapid march to succour prince Henry : never did general make such long and flying marches in so small a space of time ; the king moved with so much celerity, that he reached Grossen-hayn on the 9th of september, and Dresden the 11th. As his majesty advanced, the austrians withdrew from the frontiers of Brandenburg, and even of Lusatia ; and general Laudohn, who had employed himself in pillaging the circle of Cotbus, with the utmost licentiousness, precipitately abandoned all the lower Lusatia, and even the fortress of Peitz. Marshal Daun himself retired from the neighbourhood of Dresden, and fell back as far as Littau. Indeed the duke of Deux Ponts, who commanded the army of the empire, possessed the strong post of Pirna, and kept his ground ; on the 5th of september, the strong fortress of Sonnenstein surrendered to him most unaccountably, after a cannonade of only one day ; but this army undertook nothing further against the king.

As soon as that monarch was absent, with the greatest part of his army, the russian general made a halt at Lansberg, where he entrenched his army, in an inaccessible camp. Count Dohna commanded the prussian troops, which the king left to act against the russians ; his head quarters were fixed at Blumberg, two leagues beyond Custrin. But on the 21st of september, general Fermor quitted this advantageous camp, and marching by Soldin and Peritz, arrived on the 26th at Stargard in Pomerania, leaving wherever it passed, the usual and dismal marks of its presence. Dohna followed them directly ; he advanced

vanced by Nécidamin, and arrived the 29th at Soldin: General Fermor left a garrison in Landsberg, but it evacuated the town on the approach of a detachment from the prussian army.

The swedes no sooner found that the king of Prussia was marching to defend Saxony against the austrians, and the army of the empire, than they thought it a proper opportunity to push the war with vigor. They began to advance very briskly, into the prussian territories. Count Hamilton who commanded their army, took up his head quarters at Fehrbellin, so that some of their advanced parties came within 25 miles of Berlin. But the king, being informed of their motions, immediately detached general Wedel, with a body of troops from Dresden, which, when augmented by some troops that joined him on the road, amounted to 11,000 men; he arrived at Berlin the 20th of september, and in two days left that city, to march against the enemy. Upon the approach of these troops, the swedish army retreated; without defending any place; they left in Fehrbellin, a garrison of 1400 men, who were driven out after some resistance, the 28th. The prince of Bevern (who had been exchanged for an austrian general taken by his prussian majesty) governor of Stetin, defended that town against them; and general Wedel continued to advance against them.

The prussian monarch himself, in the mean time, was prosecuting the war, in person, with his usual activity. Marshal Daun continued in his camp at Stolpen, from whence he had a communication with the army of the empire; the great design of this general, was to prevent the king from succouring Silesia, where the austrian generals were making great progress, and had formed the siege of Neiss. The king marched his army from the neighbourhood of Dresden, to Bautzen, a post equally advantageous for preserving a communication with
prince

prince Henry's army, for covering Brandenburg, and for throwing succours into Silesia. Marshal Daun moved to the right, and encamped among the mountains of Wilten; and soon after occupied the camp of Ritlitz. The king's army marched to Hochkirchen, from whence he dislodged the austrians, and posted himself upon the eminences, which lie between Hochkirchen and Gorlitz. And during all these different motions, the two armies kept the most watchful eye on each other. It was by this time found, that nothing but a decisive engagement would answer marshal Daun's projects; he soon perceived, that if the king kept possession of his present advantageous situation, he should be obliged to retreat into Bohemia.

The necessity of a battle was so urgent, that Daun resolved to attack his prussian majesty. He communicated his design to the prince Deux Ponts, and having settled measures with him, marched in the dead of a very dark night, in three columns, towards the right of the king of Prussia's camp. Nothing could be better contrived than this enterprize, of marshal Daun; and it was executed with equal vigor and prudence. So wisely, that, notwithstanding the great numbers of the austrians, the badness of the roads, thro' which they marched; and the darkness of the night; yet the three columns at the same time arrived at the prussian camp, without being discovered, and without confusion.

At five o'clock in the morning, of october the 4th, they began the attack, with the utmost ardour and resolution. The prussians had not time to strike their tents, before the enemy was in the midst of their camp, and had began a furious attack. The surprised troops ran half naked to their arms; and in the beginning of the engagement, marshal Keith was killed by two musket balls; and prince Francis of Brunswick had his head shot off by a cannon ball, as he

he was mounting his horse. The loss of two such able officers was irreparable to the king of Prussia, who now had every thing on his own hands, at the moment when he most wanted assistance. But even in the dreadful confusion which must unavoidably have ensued in his army on such an occasion, his great presence of mind, his activity, and valour, animated his troops. Every where present, and in the hottest of the fire, he, in some measure remedied the unfortunate blow he was likely to receive. Finding himself very hard pressed, he ordered a large detachment from his left to reinforce his right wing; but at that instant, general Retzow, who commanded the left, was himself vigorously attacked by the austrians: so that little or no assistance could be afforded to the king, who was obliged to bear the brunt with his right alone, of the grand attack of the austrians where marshal Daun himself was present.

That general had entrusted the attack of the village of Hochkerchen, and its eminences, to general Laudohn, who attacked them with the greatest fury. As it was a post of such importance, that the fate of the day depended on it; the dispute was hottest there. Laudohn succeeded; but he, no sooner was in possession of it, than he was attacked with the utmost fury by the prussians; he repulsed them; a second attack was made with equal bravery; and a third, but both were also unsuccessful; the fourth attack, after a most bloody dispute they carried it; but marshal Daun determined to make every possible effort, by continually pouring fresh troops on that post, drove the prussians out of it, after reiterated attacks, and a prodigious slaughter. His majesty then despairing of the victory, ordered a retreat, which, to the astonishment of all, who knew not the excellency of the prussian discipline, was performed in good order, under the cover of a great fire of artillery placed, in the center of his camp. They lost about 7000
men

men in this bloody battle, killed, wounded and prisoners. The austrians, by their own confession, 5000; who took a great number of cannon, some colours, and a large quantity of baggage.

It was very justly a matter of wonder, that his prussian majesty, who had such a number of excellent generals under him, should be surpris'd in such a fatal manner; and that his out guards should not have discovered the enemy time enough to have prevented the dismal consequences that followed. As fatal as the first part of the day proved, it ought in the eye of the world, to be retrieved from dishonour, by the excellent retreat, which the prussian army made. History, I believe, can produce but few instances of an inferior army being surpris'd in their sleep; running half naked to their arms; recovering their order; fighting desperately for five hours; and at last making such an orderly retreat, without their enemies daring to pursue them. Nor did the greatness of the king's generalship ever appear more conspicuous; and he never found such great want of it as in this action; to have a wing of his army at a distance from his own quarters, attacked; the two commanders of it slain, in the first onset; the principal generals of it wounded; and the whole wing on the point of flight: to come himself in this critical moment, from the other wing, to restore his confused troops to order; twice to repulse the enemy; four times to attack them; and at last to make so orderly a retreat, overborn only by numbers and fatigue: these, I say, are actions which discover such a greatness of genius, such an admirable presence of mind; as was hardly ever equalled by any general.

His prussian majesty, after the action, fell back with his right wing to Weissenbourg; his left still continued at Bautzen; and the head quarters were at Dobereschutz. He had been in this position but

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a short

a short time, before he perceived, that marshal Daun's view, was to prevent his marching into Silesia ; and that, that general had laid aside his designs on Saxony ; this determined him to send for a large detachment from prince Henry's army ; (which the prince brought up himself) and to march into Silesia, to raise the siege of Neiss, which the generals Harsch and de Ville were prosecuting with the utmost vigor.

His majesty found many difficulties in putting this scheme in execution. Marshal Daun lay with a superior army just in his road, whose only business was to obstruct his march. Saxony, would be left uncovered, and prince Henry, whose army was reduced by the late detachments, could make but ineffectual efforts against the united arms of the austrians and imperialists, if marshal Daun should turn his arms that way. On the contrary, if the king was to remain in his present situation, and neglect to rescue Silesia, that province would be greatly over-run by the austrians, whereby his affairs would suffer equally, with uncovering Saxony. It is for great genius's only not to be disconcerted by such dilemma's as these ; instead of rendering him inactive, the king of Prussia's served only to quicken the speed of his resolution, and the vigor with which he executed it. He determined to march into Silesia.

On the 24th of october, he broke up his camp, at Doberschutz ; and fetching a great compass, arrived on the 26th in the plain of Gorlitz : marshal Daun had endeavoured to seize this post before the king ; but could get no further than Landscron ; their granadiers and carabineers, drew up opposite to the prussian van-guard, but were defeated with the loss of 800 men. By this admirable march, Daun at once lost all the advantages which he had before gained, from the victory at Hochkirchen, and from his ad-
vantageous

vantageous posts ; an open road lay before the king into Silesia, and all he could now do was to harass his rear. His majesty pursued his march with the greatest rapidity ; general Laudohn, with 24,000 men followed him with little success.

On the 28th, his majesty marched to Lauban ; and in two days after entered Silesia. The 6th of november he arrived at Nossen. The siege of Neiss was carrying on with the utmost vigor ; and defended with the greatest bravery ; it commenced the 4th of august, and was completely invested the 3d of october. The prussian army arrived in sight of Neiss the 7th of november, general Harsh having raised the siege, and repassed the Neiss, leaving a considerable quantity of ammunition and stores behind him ; general Treskow, the brave governor, sallied out upon them, and cut in pieces a body of 7 or 800 pandours. The king's presence every where relieved the whole province ; a large body of austrians, who had been some time employed in the blockade of Cosel, raised it on the 9th ; the austrian general fell back on the army of general Harsch, and the united corps retreated into Bohemia and austrian Silesia, with great precipitation.

Never did any general plan his schemes and execute them with greater resolution, vigor, and celerity, than his prussian majesty ; this rapid march from Saxony, by which he entirely drove the austrians out of Silesia, is a remarkable instance ; the prussian soldiers, with reason, expected that this would be their last operation for that campaign ; but their sovereign was of a different opinion ; Saxony was in danger, and it must be rescued.

Marshal Daun, soon after he had gained the advantage at Hochkirchen, determined that his greatest efforts during the remainder of the campaign, should be on the side of Silesia ; and consequently his first point was, to prevent the king from marching into it : but as his majesty had entirely defeated his whole
project,

project, by this rapid, march, he thought it proper to change his plan of operations, and take advantage of the king's absence to fall on Saxony. His design was to make himself master of the three cities of Dresden, Leipstick, and Torgau: for this purpose he followed the king no further than Gorlitz; and when he had detached general Laudohn to harass his rear, he marched himself with all expedition towards Dresden, having passed the Elbe at Pirna, the 6th of november. Prince Henry's army, weakened considerably, by the large detachments which he had carried to the grand army, after the battle of Hochkirchen, was obliged to retire from its advantageous post before Dresden, to the westward of that city; Daun endeavoured to cut off his communication with it; but the prince threw himself into Dresden, and retired on the other side the Elbe. The duke of Deux Ponts then marched, and invested Leipstick; whilst marshal Daun did the same to Dresden, with 60,000 men. That city was but meanly fortified, of very great extent, and defended only by 12,000 men, which was a very poor garrison for so large a place, commanded by the count de Schmettau. The austrian general appeared in sight of the city, the 6th of november; by a motion on the 7th, the governor was convinced that his design was against the capital.

The suburbs of Dresden were so extremely weak, that Schmettau found it would be impossible for him to prevent the enemy's possessing himself of them by a coup de main. An enterprize of this nature, would have been the more easy, as most of the houses of the suburbs, from the gate of Pirna to that of Wilstruff, absolutely commanded the body of the town, both by their prodigious height, being six or seven stories high, and by their proximity to the ramparts. This laid count Schmettau under the disagreeable necessity of burning them, for that end he filled the highest houses with combustibles, and also those next to the ramparts, that his orders might be the more speedily

speedily executed, whenever the reasons of war obliged him to issue them in his own defence: the governor made a declaration to this effect, to M. de Bose, chief cup bearer to the court of Dresden, adding, that as soon as the enemy should make a show of attacking the city, he should be obliged to set fire to the suburbs.

The suburbs of Dresden compose one of the finest cities in Europe, much superior to the part within the walls; where the most considerable of the inhabitants reside, and is also the seat of those curious manufactures, for which that city is so famous. Marshal Daun well knowing the necessity the governor would find himself under, endeavoured to intimidate him from this measure, by threatening to make him personally answerable for the steps he should take. Schmettau, with all the firmness of the bravest soldier, replied, that he would answer whatsoever he should do, and would not only burn the suburbs, in case marshal Daun advanced, but would likewise defend the city itself street by street, and at last even the castle, which was the royal residence, if he should be driven to it. The magistrates of the city no sooner were acquainted with this resolution, but they fell at the feet of count Schmettau, imploring him to change his mind; the part of the royal family that remained in Dresden, joined in these supplications, praying him to spare that last refuge of distressed royalty, and at least to allow a secure residence to those who had been deprived of every thing else. But the governor continued firm in his resolution; he answered, that their safety depended on marshal Daun, that if he attacked them, the necessity of war would oblige him to act quite contrary to the lenity of his disposition.

Schmettau had thrown up some small redoubts to cover the suburbs; these the austrians soon forced, and penetrated a good way into them; during which attack, their artillery played into the town. General Meyer, who was posted in the suburbs, gave notice

to the governor the next day, that the austrians were erecting batteries, and making other preparations to attack the city. Whereupon, it was absolutely necessary no longer to delay destroying the suburbs.

At three o'clock in the morning, of the 10th of november, general Meyer gave the signal, and, immediately, a place, so lately the seat of pleasure, arts, and trade, was all in flames. Dreadful as this conflagration was, yet the good order of the prussian troops, and the care of the governor, prevented it from being more shocking than was necessary; very few lost their lives. General Meyer retired into the city; and the gates were directly barricaded*.

The Saxon and austrian ministers † made the most aggravated complaints all Europe over, of the barbarities

* Vide Schmettau's memorial concerning the burning the suburbs of Dresden.

† Vide M. Ponickau the Saxon resident's memorial to the diet of the empire.

"By the violence of the flames, which was kept up by red hot balls, fired into the houses and along the streets, the whole was instantly on fire."—"A shoe-maker, who was running away with his infant on a pillow, to save it from being burnt to death, was met by a volunteer, who snatched the pillow away from him, and threw the babe into the flames."—"One man had got his things into a waggon; the prussians stooped it, covered it over with pitch, and set it on fire."—"By this means a multitude of people of all ages, who inhabited those populous suburbs, perished amidst the flames. The number of those who were killed in the single inn, called the Golden Hart, amounted to 90."—"The austrian army beheld these horrible acts, filled with indignation and rage. Its generals melting with compassion, tried every method to remedy them. They sent 300 carpenters into the suburbs, to endeavour to extinguish the flames." All these falsities are abundantly confuted in the following authentic papers.

Letter from M. de Bose, chief cup-bearer to the court of Dresden, to count Schmettau.

I have the honour to acquaint your excellency, in answer to what you wrote me this day, I must own, that ever since you had the government of Dresden, I informed you of all that his royal highness

barities exercised by the prussians in this affair. Never were there such infamous falsities trumped up, as they

ness charged me to tell you in his name, and I have likewise reported to his highness, your excellency's answers.

As to the first point, I also remember very well, that your excellency charged me, in the month of july, to represent to his royal highness, that if marshal Daun should attack the city, you must set fire to the suburbs, particularly the houses that adjoined to the ditch; into which houses, your excellency immediately ordered combustibles to be put. I also remember, that upon the solicitations, which his royal highness made, by me, to your excellency, you ordered them to be removed when marshal Daun retired; and of this I also made an humble report.

It is also true, that when marshal Daun was at Lockowitz, on the 18th of november last, your excellency charged me to acquaint his royal highness, in your name, that, if marshal Daun should approach near the town, and attack it, you should be obliged to burn the suburbs, and the houses adjoining the town ditch. Although I made several remonstrances to your excellency from the court, you declared, that you was ordered by the king your master, to defend yourself to the last extremity, and that you could not change your measures, unless marshal Daun should be prevailed with not to attack the town. To which I answered, in his royal highness's name, that he knew nothing of marshal Daun's designs; that he could not intermeddle in the operations of war, and would consequently be obliged to endure what he could not hinder.

Lastly, it is well known, that your excellency, during the fire, took every possible measure in the town, to prevent these excesses and disorders, which might have been apprehended; and his royal highness charged me to return you his thanks for it. I have the honour to be, &c.

Dec. 4, 1758.

JOACHIM FREDERICK de BOSE.

Certificate of the magistrates of Dresden.

In consequence of orders received from his excellency count Schmettau, lieutenant general and governor, we certify what we know concerning the burning of the suburbs. Two persons were burnt to death, two killed, three hurt, by the fire, and two wounded by the soldiers.

We never heard, in any shape, of a waggon full of goods, which they were endeavouring to save, and which it was pretended was covered with combustibles, and so set on fire; nor of ninety persons said to have perished at the Hart, nor of the austrian troops,

they spread about in their memorials. They made no scruple to invent and alter facts in such a manner, as to move the greatest pity towards the sufferers, and equal indignation against his prussian majesty. But all these vile falsities were fully removed, by the authentic certificates of the magistrates, &c. of Dresden, who were perfectly acquainted with the transaction; and all the heap of inventions that had been palmed upon all Europe for truths, were instantly overthrown.

who, it is pretended, assisted in extinguishing the flames. Dresden, dec 4, 1758.

(L. S.) The magistrates of Dresden.

Certificate of the judges of the suburb of Dresden.

We the judges of the suburb of Dresden, certify, and attest, that at the time of the calamity that hath just happened, things passed in this manner. The combustibles were replaced on the 7th of november; and the magistrates ordered all the judges to attend them: accordingly, Simon Stelzner, judge; John Christian, alderman; John Michael Faber, and John Christian Kretschmar, judges, attended, and were told, (being enjoined at the same time, to acquaint the other judges with it) to provide the hoses with water, to give notice to the landlords, and keep the pumps ready, and endeavour to assist one another; because, if any misfortune should happen, the people of the town could not come to our assistance, nor could we go to theirs: and of this, we informed all the burghers.

On the 8th and 9th the austrian army approached the town; and on the 9th, the austrian hussars forced their way to the suburb of Pirna, and to Zinzendorf house.

On the 10th, at two in the morning, fire was set to the quarters of Pirna, Ram, and Wilsdorf, which consumed 266 houses in all.

There have been therefore in all, two persons burnt, a man and a woman greatly advanced in years, and whom it was impossible to save; two killed, and two wounded.

What has been said of a waggon is false; and it is equally false that ninety persons perished at the Hart; only four persons in all having lost their lives, as we have just mentioned. Lastly, it is false, that the austrian carpenters assisted us in extinguishing the fire. We never saw one of them.

We certify, that all the above is strictly conformable to truth.

Dec. 4,

1758.

Signed by the ten judges
of Dresden.

Marshal

Marshal Daun now found that it was impossible to take Dresden by a coup de main; and besides the king of Prussia was marching back from Silesia, with great speed to succour it, he continued the siege slowly for about a week; but as regular operations took up too much time, he raised it the 17th.

I before mentioned, that his plan was to attack Leipfick and Torgau at the same time that he himself besieged Dresden. The duke of Deux Ponts commanded before Leipfick; and general Haddick, with 10,000 men before Torgau. No sooner had the king of Prussia notice of the scheme, which marshal Daun had formed, to possess himself of those cities, than he ordered count Dohna, who commanded against the russians, to march with 12,000 men, to the relief of Torgau; general Wedel, who, with a small army observed the motions of the swedes, received the same orders. The latter general threw himself into Torgau, before Haddick arrived there, and when he made his attack, he repulsed him with loss; and count Dohna being come up soon after, the two generals having joined their forces, pursued the austrians to Eulenburg. The enemy, terrified at the approach of the prussian armies, also raised the siege of Leipfick.

In the mean time, his prussian majesty was marching with the greatest speed from Silesia; so, that by the 15th of november, he arrived at Lauban; and having afterwards joined his army to the corps under the generals Dohna and Wedel, he arrived triumphantly at Dresden, the 20th. The austrian armies, commanded by marshal Daun, and that of the empire, fell back on the king's near approach, into Bohemia, without attempting any thing further. The marshal placed his troops into quarters of cantonment, in such situations as to form an immense chain of troops all along the frontiers of Silesia, and Saxony; where the imperial army joined, and continued it
through

through Thuringia and Franconia, where it was united to the quarters of the prince de Soubize, extending westward, along the course of the Main and Lahn, to meet those of marshal de Contades, which stretched to the Rhine, and continued the chain along it quite to the Maese, so as to command the whole course of of the Rhine, on both sides, both upward and downward.

I left the russian army retreating after the battle of Zorndorf, to Stargard in Pomerania. General Fermer foresaw that he should be unable to keep his ground in that province during the winter, unless he could secure some sea port, by which means he might receive the necessary reinforcements from Russia by sea. In pursuance to this plan, he resolved to attack the little town of Colberg on the Baltick; expecting it would be an easy conquest, as it was but meanly fortified. On the 3d of october, 15,000 russians formed the siege; but what with their incapacity in that part of the art of war, and the brave defence made by major Heydon, the governor, this little town, so poorly fortified, and so weakly garrisoned, held out against them 26 days, and then obliged them to raise the siege, the 29th of october: and this without receiving any succours whatsoever from without. The russians, without enterprising any thing else, retired in so disgraceful a manner out of Pomerania, without having been able to master one place of strength, in either Brandenburg or Pomerania. But they destroyed all the country as they passed, with the most savage fierceness. Nor were the russians the only enemy which carried on an inglorious war against his prussian majesty; the swedes were driven back into their own territories, with great loss; and several of their important posts taken, before they went into quarters of cantonment. About the time that the austrians retired into winter quarters, the french did the same, without any molestation from prince Ferdinand;

nand; his army was too weak for offensive operations, and the season too far advanced: so that the british troops were not employed in this campaign; but they lost their leader, the duke of Marlborough, who died of a fever at Munster, the 20th of october, contracted by the fatigues of the campaign. The prince disposed his troops in the most advantageous manner, in the bishoprics of Munster, Paderborn, and Hildesheim, and in the landgraviate of Hesse.

Before I dismiss the affairs of his prussian majesty, for this campaign, I must take notice of the change which that monarch made in his conduct, towards the unfortunate electorate of Saxony. When first he entered that country, at the beginning of the war, he declared, that he had no design to make a conquest of it, but only to hold it as a deposit in his hands for the security of his own dominions, until he could compel his enemies to agree to reasonable terms of peace; but upon his return to Dresden, after having forced marshal Daun once more to quit Saxony, he altered his resolution: he ordered his directory at war to send a decree to the deputies of the estates of the electorate, which, at the same time that it enjoined them to deliver a certain quantity of flower and forage, signified in express terms; "That though the king of Prussia had hitherto treated the electorate of Saxony as a country he had taken under his special protection; the face of affairs was now changed in such a manner, that his majesty would consider it for the future, only as a conquered country, out of which he had driven his enemies, by force of arms." This declaration was no sooner published, than the revenues of all the saxon ministers of consequence were sequestered; and as the russians had seized in Prussia, all the rents of the estates in that country, belonging to prussian officers, the same was done by the king in Saxony, in regard to the estates of saxon officers in the russian service. His majesty also ordered

ordered seals to be put on the papers of 20 persons of consequence belonging to the court of Dresden, who were, at the same time enjoined to set out for Warsaw, in 24 hours; in short, the administration of the government was thrown entirely into the hands of prussians. It has been very justly remarked on this; that as soon as the king of Prussia had declared, that he considered Saxony as a conquered country, the people had from that time a right to expect to be governed in such a manner as became a just prince; more especially when the conqueror's affairs are not in such a dangerous situation, as to require a very rigorous behaviour. When we consider the use which this monarch made of his conquest; we are no longer dazzled by the heroic qualities of his mind. He continued to exact the most severe contributions of the inhabitants; and in a manner very little becoming a lawful sovereign. He not only surrounded the exchange with soldiers, but confined the merchants to narrow lodgings, on straw beds, and by the extremity of their sufferings obliged them to draw bills on their foreign correspondents for very large sums. Dresden had been quite exhausted by former contributions, and had even suffered military execution long before: so that but little excuse can be made for these unjust and violent proceedings. What could be more unreasonable, more odious, or more cruel, than to retaliate on the unhappy saxons, some part of the excesses committed by the russians on his dominions. Such a proceeding is not consistent with that greatness of soul which one would think should attend such vast abilities, as are possessed by his prussian majesty. But let us review his actions this campaign, we shall there see his brightest side.

In the last campaign, he gained the most resplendent victories; but in this he formed and executed the most useful designs. The retreating out of Moravia in the face of a superior army, in that masterly manner,

ner, in which it was executed; his rapid march to drive the russians from his dominions; his gaining the battle of Zorndorf, merely by his own presence of mind; his marching from thence to relieve Saxony, when in the mean time, the austrians over-run Silesia; defeated at Hochkirchen, and yet acting as if he had been victorious; marshal Daun's whole plan being to prevent his entering Silesia; he takes a great compass round all his forces, and marching unpursued, in the swiftest manner, raises the siege of Neiss, and clears all Silesia of his enemies; from one corner of his dominions, he flies to the other; Saxony is again in danger; above an hundred thousand of his enemies besieging three great cities in it; they no sooner invade, than he resolves to rescue; from the extremity of Silesia, he makes forced marches into Saxony, raises the sieges of its capital, Leipfick and Torgau, drives the two armies of the austrians and the empire entirely out of the electorate, and arrives triumphantly at Dresden; four armies, containing above two hundred and fifty thousand men, endeavour to overwhelm his dominions, they are defeated, and drove back with disgrace; his territories are cleared, and he keeps possession of Saxony itself. In short, whether we consider the rapid and vigorous marches, the artful movements, and judicious choice of posts, in particular, or the great management, the deep laid schemes, or the studied and refined conduct in general; we must certainly allow this campaign to display on the part of that monarch, very great abilities, and generalship; greater than ever he had shewn before.

The singular situation of England guarded it from those terrible ravages of war, which laid waste the rest of Europe, consequently we can find but little for the subject of a military history there. Several squadrons had been equipped, and sailed in the winter, but their operations were too minute to be comprehended in the narrow plan of this work. In parliament

liament, every thing went smoothly; the voice of the minister was that of the nation; the house of commons had granted his majesty, for the war and other uses, upwards of eleven millions sterling, in the course of the year *. Nothing could have enabled the kingdom to raise such immense sums, but the flourishing and extensive commerce it enjoyed. This received a great addition by the success which commodore Keppel's Squadron met with on the coast of Africa.

Mr. Keppel, having been sent out from England, with a small squadron of ships, to attack Goree, came in sight of that place the 28th of December. The Dunkirk, the Nassau, the Torbay, and the Fougues anchored against several batteries, on the island of Goree, and at the same time covered two bomb-ketches by their fire. The action began with a smart cannonade from the island on the ships, as they bore down, which was not returned, till they came extremely near, and then began a most dreadful fire, which in a few hours silenced the french batteries; and made such a terrible havock among their garrison, that M. de St. Jean surrendered the fortress and island, with his garrison, prisoners of war; in it was found 110 pieces of cannon and mortars.

The island of Goree consists of a low narrow piece of land, near cape Verd in Africa, West long. 17. 40. lat. 15, in the river Senegal, about half a mile long, but very narrow. Though it is in the torrid zone, yet it enjoys a cool and temperate air almost the year round; which is owing to the equality of the days and nights; and its being continually refreshed by alternate breezes from the land and sea. M. de St. Jean had embellished it with several fine buildings; and added some fortifications to it.

The conquest of these settlements on the coast of Africa, were of infinite importance to the british nation, and of near as much advantage to its commerce, as any

* Vide appendix.

any of the numerous acquisitions we have made this war. France, by means of them, brought her sugar islands to that high pitch, which they arrived at before the war. The sugar trade, and that to the coast of Africa, are so blended together, that the former cannot subsist without the latter, on account of the negroes brought from thence; the french, by means of their settlements of Senegal and Goree, raised the price of negroes upon the english, on many parts of the coast, from 6 and 7 l. per head to 20 and 30 l. And, although this great rise in their price affected the english West-indian trade so very sensibly, yet their own suffered not the least by it, by reason of their extraordinary bounties, privileges and immunities, which the french government allows for the encouragement of their african commerce. The gum Senegal is another article of great consequence, which falls into the hands of the english, by this important conquest. The african gum is exceeding useful, in several french manufactures; such as their silks, and other fabricks, which require a glossy lustre to recommend them to foreign nations; and this gum is no less useful in several english manufactures. So advantageous is it, that Mr. Postlethwait * informs us, that we have a recent instance of two merchants in the city of London, who gained above 10,000 l. by a loading of gum from Senegal, which they obtained in the year 1757, on this coast; the first cost of which cargo, on the outset, did not amount to 1000 l. There are also several other very material articles of trade, which must be chiefly in the hands of the possessors of these important settlements. Gold dust, ivory, &c. are very beneficial trades; but the vast advantage of the negroe trade is unbounded; the whole West-indies must depend greatly on those, for negroes, who possess Senegal and Goree.

* Importance of the african expedition considered, p. 4.

Never was any year more glorious to Great Britain than 1758. We have many times triumphed over France, perhaps with greater eclat; but never with such real advantage to the nation. Those conquests which promote our trade, and consequently our naval power, are the most beneficial to us. The possession of Louisburg threw into our hands the whole cod-fishery, by which France maintained yearly in time of peace, near 20,000 seamen, and the profits to that nation were calculated at upwards of a million sterling; such an article, I think, to englishmen, can want no heightening. It is justly agreed, that our navy depends in great measure on our north american commerce; had the french been able to put those deep laid schemes in execution, (which I have before treated of more fully) and which depended in a great measure, on the possession of the forts Frontenac and du Quesne; our colonies would have been in the utmost danger. The conquest of those forts broke the chain, with which they had confined us, within such very narrow bounds, and threw a great part of the furr trade into our hands. The conquest of Senegal and Goree, as I have just mentioned, deprived the french of those valuable branches of commerce, the negroes gum, gold dust, and ivory. The expedition to the coast of France convinced all Europe that that kingdom was vulnerable, even at home; and the mischief it did to their trade was very considerable. Lastly, if we add the advantages gained in the East-indies, by admiral Pocock, and the vast success our shipping met with, in destroying the french commerce, by the capture of their merchant ships and men of war, we may justly conclude, that there never was a year, wherein the forces of Britain were exerted in a more glorious or advantageous manner, than that of 1758.

To what can we attribute this vast success, but to that union and harmony which subsisted in our councils? Did ever any former ministry in England carry
on

on such an extensive war as the present, without having a strong opposition in parliament to struggle with at the same time? The coalition of parties was the original cause of our success; had one ministry been in power for a few months; and then another, whose maxims were entirely opposite to those of the former, in what a confused manner must the war have been carried on? But the two parties united have triumphed over faction, perhaps more dangerous than the enemy; they have employed the forces of their country to the best advantage; the navy, that glory of Great Britain, has been exerted in the most formidable manner; and, what is unusual, we have at the same time, been equally victorious at land. They sent a british army to Germany, and at the same time another to the coast of France, without in the least neglecting the marine. In short, Britain, this year found herself alike victorious in every quarter of the world.

C H A P. XVIII:

Situation of the belligerent powers at the opening of the year 1759. State of the affairs of his prussian majesty. Of the empress queen. Of the empress of Russia. Of the republic of Holland. Case of the dutch ships considered. Affairs in England. In France. Expedition to the West-indies, under Hopson and Moore. Unsuccessful attack on Martinico. Basse Terre in Guadaloupe destroyed. The forces land. Basse Terre taken. General Hopson dies. Grande Terre conquered. The island capitulates. Remarks on its importance.

THE events of the year 1758, convinced all the belligerent powers of Europe, that the fortune of the war was not to be obtained by any one victory, however considerable; but would be won by those whose resources enabled them to sustain the horrors of it longer than their enemies. It was plain, at the conclusion of the last year, that that general, whose genius furnished him with the greatest resources, was most likely to prove, in the end, victorious. It was really astonishing to see so many great victories gained by the prussian troops, without being able to procure a safe peace; when many of them would in former times, have been sufficient to transfer the empire of the world from one nation to another.

Nor was it less surprising, that the three campaigns, wherein the king of Prussia had met with such great success, did not exhaust him more. Those successes, great as they were, often times were dearly purchased; and besides these, he had met with some checks; part of his dominions had been possessed by his enemies; the

the kingdom of Prussia was in the hands of the russians, part of his westphalian territories in those of the french. Many of his greatest generals were dead; and great part of those brave veterans, who had performed such unparralleled actions under him, at the beginning of the war were no more: add to this his coffers, which had been so long a filling were drained. But yet, for all this melancholy catalogue, his prussian majesty was far from being exhausted, at the close of the last campaign. Had that been his situation, let me ask the intelligent reader, whether he would have been able to drive such formidable and numerous enemies out of his german dominions. At that period, he entirely possessed the electorate of Brandenburg, Pomerania, Silesia, Magdeburg, and Halberstadt of his own dominions, Saxony, part of Mecklingburgh, and part of swedish Pomerania of his enemy's; add to this, he still received a subsidy of 670,000 l. sterling, from Great Britain; add also those great resources which he found in his own superior genius; and in the abilities of his brother Henry, seconded by a long list of able generals, who still remained to command his armies. These advantages enabled him to finish the last campaign in so glorious a manner, and to prepare with the necessary vigor for opening the approaching one.

The empress queen, during the course of the war, had met with much greater shocks than the king of Prussia; and the war felt equally heavy on her: but the resources of her power, as they are more natural than those of her enemy, so they are the more visible to the rest of Europe. Her immense territories; many of them equally fruitful and populous, enabled her to recruit all her losses. It must be a very long war that would entirely exhaust the house of Austria; her dominions are of such an immense extent; the subject so used to supply free quarter and endure military licence; her subjects so numerous, so hardy, and

make such good soldiers; that it is not to be wondered at, that the empress queen was able to recruit her armies, on every shock they received: In fact, marshal Daun, very early in the new year found that he should be at the head of an army as formidable as ever.

The empress of Russia was drawn into the war by the envy which she always had to her formidable rival in the north, the king of Prussia. Never did any power enter into a war upon more unjust motives than the court of Petersburg! It was meer envy of the rising greatness of the prussian monarch. But as she had engaged, she resolved to persevere. The expence of the war fell more heavy on her enemy and the republic of Poland, than it did on herself; and, as it was an opportunity of forming her troops to service, she resolved to continue in her present system. The british minister made the greatest efforts to detach her from her alliance; but all his endeavours were vain; the court of Petersburg, notwithstanding the bad success it had hitherto met with, continued resolutely bent on the ruin of the king of Prussia.

Holland, during the greatest part of the preceding year, had been filled with nothing but remonstrances, memorials, and complaints, concerning the capture of her merchant ships by the english men of war and privateers. France, soon after their ships were seized by the english, at the beginning of the war, finding that their trade would be entirely ruined; endeavoured to obviate that stroke by her policy. She took off the tax of 50 sous per ton, which she always chuses to keep on foreign freightage: she opened even her american ports, and admitted other countries to that choice part of her commerce, which by her maritime regulations, she hath at other times so strictly kept to herself. Neutral nations seized at once on the advantage, and opened to the enemy new channels
for

for the conveyance of those riches, by which the war was to be nursed and protracted : Under the banner of friendship they thus served the cause of the adversary, whose wealth secured by that protection would have passed safe and unmolested through the english fleets. Britain resolved, that her naval power should not be rendered useless, and seized on the property of her enemy, which she found on board neutral ships *.

The dutch were mostly concerned in this contraband trade ; and they made terrible clamours at the capture of their ships. The merchants of the principal cities in Holland presented several memorials to the states general for redress of their grievances, offering to arm themselves and protect their trade. The states remonstrated to the court of Great Britain against this proceeding, but they met with a very cold reception. In fact, their claim was founded neither on the law of nations, nor on that of nature.

Holland, whenever she was engaged in war, almost constantly pursued the same conduct : she sometimes even prohibited the commerce of neutral nations, beyond all justice and moderation. In the year † 1599, when the government of Spain first prohibited the subjects of the united provinces, from trading to the ports of that kingdom, a liberty, which had unaccountably been allowed them, from the commencement of their revolt to that period ; the states general in revenge, published a placart, forbidding the people of all nations to carry any kind of merchandise into Spain. It is declared in the 41st article of the treaty of 1674, between Great Britain and Holland, and also in every other commercial treaty, “ That all goods are contraband, which are carried to places blockaded or in-

* Discourse on the conduct of the government of Great Britain, p. 6.

† Grotii historiarum, lib. 8.

vested." To shew what opinion the dutch had of a naval blockade in 1630*, when they pretended to have blockaded up all the coast of Flanders, and openly avowed, that they would take and condemn all neutral ships, which had the most distant appearance of being bound to the ports of that country. In 1689†, they also declared publicly, to neutral nations, that they designed to block up all the ports of France. Now a blockade may be considered as complete by sea as land; and were not the french west-indian islands as completely blockaded, as it was possible for the dutch to blockade the ports of France? And much more; their distress and famine, for want of a communication with their mother country, fully declare, that they were invested. But besides these several reasons, I could produce many others founded intirely on the letter of the treaties subsisting between Great Britain and Holland, to shew that they have not the least right to carry the property of the enemy in their ships; but the bounds of this work will not permit me to be more particular; I must refer the reader to a very ingenious work, which canvasses the affair to the very bottom, entitled, "A discourse on the conduct of Great Britain, in respect to neutral nations."

If we turn our eyes towards England, and compare the state of that nation at this period, with the state it was formerly in, during the war, we shall find that the very maxims of government were changed; the constitution wore a different face. That unprecedented union, which reigned in both houses of parliament, enabled the ministry, who lived in the greatest harmony with one another, to concert those great plans of actions against the enemy, and by their penetration in the choice of commanders to ensure their

* Convention between England and Holland, 1689.

† Placart of june 26, 1630.

success. France, during the year, had every day found the power of the english in America to exert itself more and more: it had been like an almost smothered flame, which, when it broke through the smoke that had covered it, blazed forth with renewed violence. Those shocks, so fatal to the trade of France, which she had received in America that year, had convinced her, that it would never be possible to retrieve those losses, by her operations in that part of the world. Her great efforts must be made in Europe. Hanover was her aim on the continent, if she could keep possession of that electorate till a peace, she doubted not of being able to conclude an advantageous one. But to effect this, it required that their army in Germany should be recruited, and reinforced, that the subsidies which had been paid to Sweden, Austria, and Russia, should be regularly continued; that the king of Prussia might gain no respite. Nor was the plan which France determined to pursue, confined to Germany, she resolved to set about in real earnest, invading Great Britain; for this end, immense preparations were to made in several of the ports of that kingdom: by this means, the peace did not depend on a single stake, they had two schemes, and if either of them succeeded, their design would be entirely answered. But all these great points could not be put in execution, without great funds. It was the misfortune of the french nation at this time, to be governed by a weak and divided ministry, and a ravenous mistress, who fleeced the kingdom of immense sums every year. The destruction of their trade made money very scarce, and the necessities of the state being urgent, they were obliged to adopt a new plan of raising the revenue. Moreover Silhouette was made controller of the finances; and he immediately removed the farmers of the revenue from finding the supplies; and new methods were devised

for raising money ; but the great want of it still appeared, these were only temporary expedients.

But as the face of affairs in England was so much changed, so these schemes of her enemies no longer had that effect which used to attend them. At the same time that an army was maintained in Germany, and such numerous forces were kept in action in America, the East and West indies, Britain, by the good conduct of her government, was enabled to guard against any attempt that France might make to invade her. The militia act, so well known, had armed several thousand men for the defence of the kingdom, the regular troops were augmenting both in number and species ; and for the first time we saw light horse and infantry. Our navy was more formidable than ever, and several squadrons were generally blocking up the ports of France, and cruising on their trade, whilst others were carrying destruction to the french colonies in every part of the world. In this situation, Britain had little to fear at this period, from the designs which that nation had formed to invade her.

One of the most considerable expeditions that was undertaken by the english ministry, in the beginning of the new year against France, was that to the West-indies. About the latter end of october 1758, commodore Hughes, with a squadron of eight ships of the line, a frigate, and four bombs, with sixty transports, set sail from Spithead, having on board the following regiments, the old buffs, Durore's, Elliot's, Barrington's, Watson's, and Armiger's, with a detachment from the artillery at Woolwich ; 800 marines were also distributed on board the men of war. The general officers employed were, major general Hopson, commander in chief ; major general Barrington ; colonels Armiger, and Haldane ; and lieutenant colonels Trapaud and Clavering, brigadiers. The 3d of january, 1759, they came to an anchor in Carlisle bay, in the island of Barbadoes. Commo-
dore

dore Moore, who was lying in that bay, with another small squadron, took upon himself the command of the united fleet. Having watered at Barbadoes, they set sail from thence january 13th, their armament not exceeding 5000 men complete*.

The grand object of this expedition was the island of Martinico, the first of the french sugar islands, the seat of the government, and the center of all the trade which France carries on with the West-indies: It is very strong both by nature and art. The shore on every side indented with very deep bays; the many sands round the island which are to be seen only at low water, render an approach very dangerous without good pilots. It is very fruitful, well cultivated, and watered, abounding with plantations and villages along the sea coast. Port Royal is the principal place in the island, which is considerable for its size, trade, and strength. St. Pierre is the second town which is of near as much consequence as Port Royal. The french had at this time a good number of regular forces here; besides a numerous and well armed militia, and not contemptible for their discipline.

The 15th of january, the troops were landed without opposition, on the west side of Port Royal har-

* Ships that composed the squadron.

Line of battle.			
Ships. Guns. Men. Captains.			
Berwick	64	488	Harman.
Winchester	50	350	Le Crafs.
Rippon	60	430	Jehkyll.
Bristol	50	350	Leflie.
Norfolk	74	600	Hughes.
Cambridge	80	667	Burnet.
St. George	90	750	Gayton.
Panther	60	420	Schuldharn.
Lyon	60	400	Trelawney.
Burford	64	520	Gambier.

Four frigates, four bombs, and sixty transports.

bour,

bour, after the men of war had driven the french from their batteries and intrenchments; they had frequent skirmishes with the enemy, but these did not prove so great an obstruction to the success of the troops, as the nature of the country. A multitude of deep streams of water, inclosed by steep and almost perpendicular precipices, proved a great obstacle to the march of the troops; the roads broken up, and they had five miles to march before they could get to Port Royal. General Hopson, finding these difficulties unsurmountable, sent on board the Cambridge, to acquaint the commodore, that he found it impossible to maintain his ground, unless the squadron could give him assistance, by landing some heavy cannon, &c. at the savanna, near the town of Port Royal, or that the commodore would attack the citadel in the bay, at the same time that he did it on the shore. A council of war having judged this to be impracticable, the general gave orders for the troops to retire, and they were re-embarked on the 17th. One cannot help observing in the account of this transaction, which was published in the Gazette, and which I apprehend was extracted chiefly from the commodore's letters, that there did not seem to be so perfect a harmony between the general and the commodore as is always necessary in such expeditions as these, and on which their success entirely depends.

The next day the general acquainted the commodore, that the council of war was of opinion, it would be most for his majesty's service to go to fort St. Pierre with the troops, in order to make an attack upon that place, and that no time should be lost. It was hoped that more might be done there; and accordingly the fleet came in sight of that town the 19th; forty merchantmen were then lying in the bay, and the commodore ordered two bombs to sail in near enough to do the proper execution; he sent a man of war in to sound, and ordered the Rippon to silence
a battery

a battery, about a mile and a half north of the town; and threw out a signal for the transports to come under his stern. All these dispositions seemed as if the attack was resolved on; and in fact, the commodore had assured the general, that he could destroy the town of St. Pierre, and put the troops in possession of it; but as the squadron might be considerably damaged in the attack, and the whole armament unable after it to proceed on any other material service, he represented to the general, that it would be better to proceed to the town of Basse Terre, in the island of Guadaloupe. The general concurring in this opinion, the bombs were forbid to play, the founding ship recalled; and to the astonishment of every body, the merchantmen were left without any attack being made on them; as it was the opinion of several officers, that they might have been, at least destroyed without damaging the ships, so much as to disengage them from proceeding on their service. But it looks as if the commodore had forgot he had ordered the Rippon to engage a battery; that ship proceeded down to her station, and in a few minutes silenced it; but before she could disengage herself, four batteries more were opened, to play on the ship, which damaged her masts, sails, and rigging very much, and the captain observing the commodore above two leagues astern of him, with the rest of the fleet, and no ships but his own in the harbour, nor any coming to his assistance, concluded that the attack was laid aside, and his own ship being in great danger, ordered his boats to be manned, and towed her off.

Pursuant to the resolution agreed on at the council of war, to attack Guadaloupe, the squadron set sail, and arrived off the town of Basse Terre, the 23d of january; they found the place very formidably fortified towards the sea, as the enemy had raised several batteries at all the convenient places along the shore; and the citadel, was thought by colonel Cunningham, the

the chief engineer, on account of its great height to be impregnable to the ships, but in this opinion he proved mistaken. The same day the commodore ordered the attack to be made in the following disposition: the St. George, Norfolk, and Cambridge to lay along side the citadel, mounting 47 guns; the Lyon, a battery of nine guns; the Panther and Burford, a battery of 12 guns; the Berwick, a battery of seven guns; and the Rippon another of 6 guns. He ordered them to silence, if possible, their respective batteries, and to lie by them till further orders; having shifted his broad pendant from the Cambridge, and hoisted it on board the Woolwich of 40 guns. The ships having all taken their stations, the cannonade began at nine o'clock, and continued with the most unremitting fury till night; as soon as the several batteries were silenced, the four bombs stood in for the shore, and threw shells and carcasses into the town. The houses and churches were every where soon in flames, the magazines of powder blown about the enemies ears, and the whole about ten o'clock blazed out in one general conflagration. It burned all night, and the following day; when it was almost totally reduced to ashes. The loss was immense, from the number of warehouses in the town, full of rum, and other rich, but combustible materials. It is surprising that the squadron should suffer so little as it did, in sustaining such a terrible cannonade.

The 24th, the troops landed without opposition, and took possession of the town and citadel of Basse Terre; the fire still continuing in the former. M. d'Estreil, the governor, behaved very dastardly; instead of exerting himself in the time of danger, visiting the several engaged batteries, and by his presence inspiring his people with redoubled ardor; he retired to a plantation out of gun-shot, and remained an inactive spectator of the destruction of the day. Had he acted as became a brave man, fighting for his

his honour and his country, he would the next morning have taken precautions to prevent the landing of the troops, who had a difficult shore to deal with, attended with a violent surff from the sea, and defended by entrenchments and lines every where thrown up. But this pretended son of Mars, retired with his troops to a rising ground, about six miles from Basse Terre, where he strongly intrenched himself, the situation being very strong by nature. The ascent to it was very steep. The road from the camp of the english troops, interrupted by broken rocks ; and the ground intersected by a variety of gullies, very difficult to pass ; all which rendered an attack on it very hazardous. While the governor remained in this situation, general Hopson and commodore Moore sent him an offer of terms ; but he returned them a very gallant answer, which would have done him honour, had it succeeded as gallant behaviour.

The latter end of the month was employed in scouring the country ; and as the enemy in small parties were continually laying ambuscades among the sugar canes ; orders were given to set them on fire, which was very soon executed. And commodore Moore considered, that the eastern part of the island, called Grand Terre, which is the most fertile of the whole, might be attacked with advantage, if the fort Louis was taken ; resolved to detach some men of war from the squadron for that purpose ; accordingly the Berwick, with three frigates, three tenders, and two bombs, sailed the 6th of february, and the 13th attacked the fort and the batteries near it ; when, after a severe cannonade, which lasted six hours, a large detachment of marines, and the highlanders, landed, who drove the enemy from their intrenchments, and hoisted the english colours at the fort.

General Hopson died at the camp near Basse Terre the 27th, and the command of the army then devolved

volved on major general Barrington, who on the 1st of march, brought off all the troops, re-imbarking them on board the transports by the break of day, leaving colonel Desbrisay in the citadel, with Watson's regiment, and a detachment from the artillery. It was the general's scheme to make the attack on the side of Grande Terre; accordingly the commodore with the fleet sailed. It was the 11th before the fleet came to an anchor off fort Louis. It was here that Mr. Moore received intelligence, that Mons. Bompart, with a squadron of eight sail of the line, and three frigates, with a reinforcement of troops, was arrived at Port Royal in Martinico. The commodore directly perceived, that the french squadron might be able to throw in succours into Grand Terre, if he attempted it, without his being able to prevent it, as the squadron then lay; he took a resolution to sail immediately to prince Rupert's bay, in Dominica, as he should there have it more in his power to protect Guadaloupe. The privateers of the french took advantage of this movement; and above eleven weeks, while the two squadrons were watching one another in the two bays; they sailed out, and took above 90 sail of english merchantmen, and carried them into Martinico. These captures occasioned heavy complaints from the british islands, for they said, (and I believe, with a good deal of reason) it was equally practicable for the english squadron to have anchored at Port Royal, as at prince Rupert's bay; by which, two ends might have been answered, the french men of war could not have got out, nor the privateer prizes have got in, and of course the latter must have been re-taken; no other harbour being then open to them except St. Pierre's or Granada, either of which, was at that time to be blockaded by a single frigate*. Had Mr. Moore

* Vide capt. Gardener's account of this expedition, p. 42.

made his appearance off Port Royal, M. du Bomparr must have been reduced to the alternative of fighting a superior force, or of retiring behind the citadel into the carenage to avoid it.

General Barrington took all the precaution in his power to strengthen the fort at St. Louis ; and, finding that the war in the island, was not to be prosecuted with all the troops in a body ; he detached colonel Crump, with 600 men, in some of the transports, to endeavour to land between the towns of St. Anne, and St. François ; colonel Crump executed this with the greatest bravery, destroying the batteries of cannon which the enemies had raised there. And as the general expected, that the enemy would weaken a strong post they had at Gosier, to reinforce St. Anne's and St. François, he went with another detachment and made himself master of it.

In the mean time, colonel Desbrisay *, who was left governor of the citadel of Basse Terre, lost his life by an unfortunate accident. A cannon being fired too near a powder magazine, the return of the wadding blew it up, and with it the governor, major Trollop, a lieutenant, and several men. Major Mel-

* Lieutenant colonel Desbrisay, was captain of foot at the battle of Val, near Mastricht, in 1747 ; being wounded, and lying on the ground, a french officer, contrary to the rules of war, and every generous sentiment ran him through, which unmanly example was immediately followed by the party he commanded, all of them planting their bayonets in his body. He received 15 wounds, and eight of them were judged mortal. He was afterwards in company with marshal Saxe. whose politeness in war was so well known, and who pressed him strongly to declare, who the officer was, that had used him in so base a manner, threatening to disgrace him, at the head of the regiment ; but Desbrisay, though well acquainted with his name, the commission he bore, and the corps he served in, had so much greatness of mind as to decline it ; he contented himself with letting his excellency know, that he was not a stranger to his person, but begged he would excuse him, from being obliged to point him out.

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vil was appointed by the general to succeed him in the government of the citadel.

The most considerable force the enemy had, was collected on the mountain called Dos d'Asne. It is a post of great strength and importance, as it forms the only communication there is between the town of Basse Terre and the capes Terre, the pleasantest and most fruitful part of the island. It was not judged practicable to break into it this way; and all the rest of the Basse Terre part of the island was in the enemies possession. The general therefore formed a plan to surprise the towns of Petit Bourge, St. Mary's, and Guogave; but the success of this project, though well concerted, was, through the darkness of the night, the roughness of the weather, and the ignorance and fear of the negroes, who were guides, entirely frustrated. This obliged general Barrington to attempt that by force, which could not be effected upon a safer plan; but as he was then laid up with a severe fit of the gout, he sent brigadier Clavering and Crump to reconnoitre the coast near Arnoville, and upon their report, sent them with 1400 men to land there, which they effected the 12th of april. The enemy made no opposition to Mr. Clavering's landing, but as his troops advanced, retired to very strong intrenchments behind the river le Corne. This post was to them of the utmost importance, as it covered the whole country to the bay Mahaut, where their provisions and supplies of all sorts were landed from St. Eustatia, and therefore they had very early taken possession of it, and had spared no pains to strengthen it, though the situation was such, as required very little assistance from art. The river was only accessible at two narrow passes, on account of a

morafs; and thofe places they had occupied with a redoubt, and well pallifadoed intrenchments, defended with cannon, and all the militia of that part of the country. The english could only approach them in a very narrow contracted front; no wider than the roads through which they marched; and thefe were defended with deep and broad ditches. The artillery, confifting of fix pieces of cannon, kept a constant fire on their intrenchments to cover the attack made by Duroure's regiment, and the highlanders, who behaved with the greateft coolnefs and refolution, keeping up as they advanced, a regular platoon firing. This behaviour fo intimidated the enemy, that they abandoned the firft intrenchment on the left. Into which the highlanders threw themfelves with part of Duroure's regiment, fword in hand, and purfued the enemy, into the redoubt. The french ftill kept their ground, in their intrenchments on the right, but on being attacked they fled, but 70 of them being made prifoners.

As foon as the ditches were filled up for the paffage of the artillery, Mr. Clavering marched towards Petit Bourg; in his way, he was to crofs the river Lizard; behind which, at the only ford, the enemy had thrown up very ftrong intrenchments, protected by four pieces of cannon, on a hill behind them. The brigadier having reconnoitred the river, found it would coft him very dear to force a paffage at the ford. He therefore kept up the attention of the enemy by firing all night in their lines, during which time, he got a couple of canoes conveyed about a mile and half down the river, where, being launched, a fufficient number of men were ferried over, to attack them in flank, while the remainder did the fame in front; but the enemy foon perceived their danger, and left the intrenchments with the greateft precipitation.

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When the brigadier arrived at Petit Bourg, he found it fortified with lines, and a redoubt filled with cannon; but the enemy abandoned it and the port to the conquerors. On the 15th, brigadier Crump was detached with 700 men to the bay Mahaut, he found the batteries and the town abandoned. These he burnt, with an immense quantity of provisions that had been landed there by the dutch, and reduced the whole country as far as Petit Bourg. The same day, Mr. Clavering detached capt. Steel with 100 men to Guogave, to destroy a battery there: the panic of the enemy was such, that they only discharged their cannon at him, and deserted a post that might have been maintained against an army. He nailed up seven pieces of cannon, and returned the same evening.

In the mean time, the french were drawing all their force to St. Mary's, to oppose the english, and had thrown up intrenchments to strengthen the post. The brigadier immediately formed a design to get into their rear, by roads which the enemy thought impracticable; but they, perceiving his design, made a movement to oppose him, which made him resolve without further delay, to attack them directly in front; and it was accordingly executed with the greatest vivacity, notwithstanding the constant firing, both of their cannon and musketry. They abandoned all their artillery, and fled in such confusion, that they never afterwards appeared before the brigadier. He took up his quarters at St. Mary's, and the next day entered capes Terre, which is the richest and most beautiful part of this, or any island in the West-indies. No less than 870 negroes, belonging to one man only, surrendered that day.

The governor of the island, finding himself so very close pressed on all sides, sent a flag of truce to general Barrington, to demand a cessation of arms, and

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to know what terms he would grant. On the first of may the capitulation was signed; their possessions, and their civil and religious liberties were granted them *.

The capitulation was hardly signed, when the french squadron, under monf. Bompert appeared before the island, and landed at St. Anne's, in the Grande Terre;

* Extract from the capitulation, between the governor and the english general.

II. The garrison shall be sent to Martinico.

VI. All the officers who have estates in the colony (except the governor, unless the king permits him) shall be allowed to appoint attorneys to act for them until the peace; and if the island is not then ceded, they shall have leave to sell their estates, and carry off the produce.

Between the inhabitants, the english general, and commodore.

III. The inhabitants are allowed the free and public exercise of their religion; the priests and religious shall be preserved in their parishes, convents, and all other possessions.

V. The inhabitants are allowed their civil government, their laws, customs, and ordinances; justice to be administered by the same persons now in office; but when any vacancy happen, they are to be filled up by the superior council, and receive their commissions from his britannic majesty. If the island is ceded to the king of Great Britain, the inhabitants shall have their choice; either to keep their own political government, or to accept that which is established at Antigua, and St. Christopher's.

VII. If the island is ceded to his britannic majesty at the peace, it is to be subject to the same duties and imposts, as the other english leeward islands, the most favoured.

XI. No other but the inhabitants residing in the island, shall possess any lands or houses before a peace; but if it is ceded to the king of Great Britain, then the inhabitants shall be permitted, if they chuse it, to sell their possessions (but to none besides subjects of Great Britain) and retire where they please.

XXI. The inhabitants and merchants of this island, included in the present capitulation, shall enjoy all the privileges of trade, and upon the same conditions as are granted to his britannic majesty's subjects, throughout the extent of his dominions; but without affecting the privileges of particular companies in England, or the laws of the kingdom, which prohibit the carrying on of trade in any other than english bottoms.

the general of the french carribbes, with a reinforcement from Martinico of 600 regulars, 2000 buccaneers, and 2000 stand of spare arms for the inhabitants, with artillery and mortars: had this support arrived an hour sooner, the conquest of the island must at least have been very difficult, if not impossible. As soon as he heard that the capitulation was signed, he re-embarked again.

On the signing of the articles of capitulation, the inhabitants quitted the Dos d'Asne, and returned to their plantations and houses; they began also to repair the ruins of Basse Terre; where, soon after shops were opened, and the produce of the country sold as usual, unmolested by the troops in camp on or garrison, general Barrington causing the strictest discipline to be observed.

The conquest of the small island of Marigalante, on the 26th, and those of Deseada, Santos, and Petitiz Terre, completed the business of the expedition; they surrendered on the same terms as Guadaloupe. So that now the french have no footing on the leeward islands. Thus was this valuable island reduced under subjection to the british crown, by the bravery of the land forces employed in the expedition. It was very odd to find how severely our West-india trade suffered from the privateers of the enemy, while commodore Moore lay with a superior squadron in those seas. Mons. Bompert was generally very near the english squadron, and effectually protected the french trade.

Gaudaloupe lies in lat. 16.06. long. 62.00. and is about 90 leagues in compass; divided into two parts by a channel, no where above 300 feet over; the one called Grande Terre, and the other Basse Terre. Its chief produce is sugar, cotton, indigo, coffee, ginger, tobacco, cassia, bananas, pine apples, rice, maize, mandioca and potatoes. The air is very clear and wholesome, and not so hot as in Martinico. Grande Terre is destitute of water, and
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not thoroughly cultivated; but the case is the very reverse in Basse Terre, the water being as good there, as the soil is rich; it is very near as populous as Martinico. In short, there is nothing in this island wanting, for the convenience and delight of life, in an air more temperate and salubrious than is commonly breathed between the tropics.

As to the importance of this acquisition, I need only state a few particulars before the reader, and every intelligent person must allow it to be infinite. Guadaloupe makes annually 40,000 hogshheads of sugar, which is a larger quantity than any of our sugar islands produce, except Jamaica. Besides this, the articles of cotton, indigo, coffee, and ginger, are very considerable; it also carries on a trade with the Carracca's, and other parts of the spanish main, which is a trade wholly in the manufactures of Europe, and the returns for which are made almost entirely in ready money. Without intimating the land, the houses, the works, and the goods in the island, the slaves, at the lowest estimation, are worth upwards of 1,250,000 l. sterling. The single branch of their trade, the sugars, besides the employment of so much shipping, and so many seamen, will produce clear 300,000 l. per annum to the merchants of that nation who possesses it. Coffee, a very inconsiderable object in the british colonies, is here a very great one. They raise also great quantities of indigo and cotton, which supply materials for the best and most valuable manufactures. Another article, which makes the possession of this island so very desirable, is the conveniency of its situation, if in the hands of the french, for being a harbour for their privateers, in this part of the world. As it is in the very middle of the english Leeward islands; which made it the Dunkirk of the West-indies*.

* Vide remarks on a letter addressed to two great men, p. 42.

I think these points considered, every one must allow, that the conquest of Guadaloupe was of infinite importance to this nation ; and was a particular instance, how active and enterprising a ministry at this time, guided the affairs of England, who, although they made such great efforts in every other part of the world against the enemy, still forgot not this, but attacked them here with equal wisdom and success.

CHAP.

C H A P. XIX.

Duke Ferdinand opens the campaign. Skirmishes in Hesse. The hereditary prince of Brunswick drives general d'Arberg out of the landgraviate. Allied army marches towards the Main. Battle of Bergen. Duke Ferdinand retires. Rapid progress of the french. Göttingen, Münden, Lipstadt, Ritberg, Munster, and Minden, surrender to them. Motions of the two armies. Affairs of the king of Prussia. General Wobersnow's expedition into Poland. Russian magazines destroyed. Prince Henry's irruption into Bohemia. Austrian magazines destroyed. His march into Franconia. General Macquire defeated.

I Before mentioned the formidable chain, which the winter quarters of the french, imperial, and austrian armies, composed at the end of the last campaign. It was the possession of Frankfort, which the french had seized last year, in open violation of the liberties of the empire, that gave them the command of the course of the Rhine and Main; and opened an easy road through which they might receive reinforcements and supplies. Prince Ferdinand, therefore, seeing the infinite importance of that city, resolved to dislodge them. His troops had had several successful skirmishes with them; in the latter end of february, the army of the empire having extended themselves into Hesse began to be troublesome; his serene highness detached general Urst towards Vacha, with four battalions, and about 1000 dragoons, hussars, &c. This detachment being assembled at Rhotenburg, fell unexpectedly, in the night between the 1st and 2d, upon the enemy's quarters, some of them were taken, and the rest retired in the utmost confusion. Hirschfeld, Vacha, and all the hessian bailiwicks,

wicks, which the enemy had taken possession of, were immediately evacuated; but being supported by some french from Frankfort, the hanoverians were obliged in their turn to retire; however, this advantage was but of short continuance, for the hereditary prince of Brunswick, leading a large body of troops through ways, which before were thought impassable, on the 31st of march surpris'd a regiment of curiaffiers, and a battalion of Wurtemburghers, most of whom he killed or made prisoners. After this success, he marched the next day, with some light troops and two battalions of grenadiers to Meinungen, where he found a considerable magazine, and took two battalions prisoners of war. Another battalion posted at Wafungen also surrendered to him, after he had had a smart skirmish with general d'Arberg, who was coming to its relief, and defeated him. The 2d, the duke of Holstein also dislodged the french from Freyensteinau, making a captain with his company prisoners of war. All the enemies parties on this side the country retired, on these successes towards Bamberg. The duke de Broglio, who commanded the french army on the Maine, alarmed at them, took an advantageous post near Bergen, a little town between Franckfort and Hannau, which it was necessary that the allies should pass, before they could penetrate to his line.

Duke Ferdinand, pursuant to the plan he had formed, to possess himself of Franckfort, drew his troops together from their quarters in Westphalia, on the Lippe, and in Hesse; he left 10 or 12,000 men to guard the electorate, and watch the bishopric of Munster; and having collected about 30,000 more at Fulde, he marched from thence the 10th of march, and on the 12th arrived at Windeken, by Freyensteinau and Budingon, and the next morning early, he marched towards Bergen, resolving to attack the duke of Broglio, who was strongly posted there. He had the

the right of his army towards Bergen ; and had secured his flanks and center in such a manner, that the prince was obliged to make his attack by that village. The allied army arrived opposite to that of the french, at nine o'clock in the morning, of the 13th of april ; and the grenadiers of prince Ferdinand's advanced guards immediately began the attack upon Bergen with great intrepidity, and were received with a very severe fire, which the enemy had prepared for them ; and though they were supported by a reinforcement of several battalions, under prince Isenburg's command, they were yet repulsed ; they rallied again, upon being supported by the hessian horse, but were forced to retreat in some disorder ; a third attack was made with the like bad success. Duke Ferdinand then finding that the enemy were too numerous, and too strongly posted to be attacked any more with success, began to think of a retreat, whilst his loss was yet inconsiderable, and the disorder of his men easily to be repaired. But to retreat in the face of a victorious enemy, is always very hazardous ; and the day was not as yet above half spent. In this exigence, he separated his infantry into two bodies, one on the right and the other on the left, forming his cavalry in the center, and a small column of infantry before it ; bringing up, at the same time, his artillery, to play against Bergen, on the enemy's right, and the wood on their left. These dispositions convinced the duke of Broglie, that he designed at the same time to attack both the village and the wood, and if one of these attacks should succeed, afterwards to fall on the center of the french ; this being the expectation of the french general, he returned the furious cannonade of the prince, as briskly as he could. But he was much deceived in his opinion ; and as he expected a lively attack every moment, he kept close to his post ; and in this posture things continued until night came on, when the prince made an easy retreat, without disorder

der or molestation, and halted at Windeken. He did not lose above 2000 men in the action; that of the french was by no means less considerable. Had he gained the victory, his reputation could not have been greater; the retreat he made which was planned and executed with equal skill, did him great honour; nor was his conduct during the action less conspicuous. But in its consequences, this battle was very different; the prince missed the blow he intended; and Broglio still kept Franckfort, receiving all the reinforcements that were sent him without molestation, besides the many other advantages which he drew from the possession of that city.

Duke Ferdinand left Windeken the 15th, and retreated to Fulde; finding that he should not be able to maintain his ground in Hesse, he resolved to make his retreat by the Weser, well knowing the great consequence of the communication by that river. About the middle of may the french armies, on the upper and lower Rhine assembled, and began to move towards one another; and the 3d of june, they joined near Marpourg, from whence they marched northward, and on the 10th arrived at Corbach, where marshal Contades took up his head quarters; and the next day, some of their light troops took possession of Cassel, without opposition; general Inhoff, with the troops under his command, who were there, having retired towards Paderborn.

During this uninterrupted progress of the french, duke Ferdinand continued to retreat along the Weser; the principal design of the french seemed to be to cut off his retreat to that river, but they were not able to effect it; he threw garrisons into Lipstadt, Ritberg, Munster, and Minden, in order to retard their progress; but all his precautions proved ineffectual: marshal Contades encamped the 12th, at Stadtberg; and the duke of Broglio, who commanded his right wing, marched from Cassel into the territories of Hannover,

nover, where he took possession of Munden and Göttingen. During these marches of the french, the allied army only moved to Lipstadt, and encamped near Soest and Werle. The 17th of june, the head quarters were at Erdberenberg, the army occupying the heights of Buren, as the french did those of Essen and Meerhoff. From Buren, duke Ferdinand retreated to Ritberg, and from thence to Marienfeld, the 30th. And Contades encamped between Lipspring and Oestlingen. The 3d of july, the allies were at Driesen, between Osnabrug and Minden; where they were joined by general Wangenheim, with a body of hanoverians, under his command, that had been left in the strong camp at Dulmen, from whence he retreated under the cannon of Munster, and then joined the army. Duke Ferdinand continued his retreat, by Bromte, Baden, Stoltznau, Nyenburg, and at last fixed his quarters in an advantageous camp at Petershagen.

In the mean time, the french continued their progress. Ritberg was surpris'd, Lipstadt continued blockaded. The duke de Broglie took Minden by assault, with a garrison of 1500 men, where he found immense magazines. Mons. d'Armentiers advanced against Munster, and attempted to take it by a coup de main; but was disappointed. But getting a train of artillery from Wesel, after a short siege made himself master of the city; the garrison of 4000 men becoming prisoners of war. After this rapid success, the main body of their army took an advantageous camp near Minden, where they remained some time, and where I shall leave them for the present. It is now time to see what were the events of war in other quarters.

His prussian majesty's affairs at the beginning of the campaign, wore a very promising appearance; but yet his numerous enemies were all preparing to renew their attacks on him. He had formed a scheme to keep the russians back, by burning their magazines
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in Poland: This plan was executed with great spirit by general Woberfnow; who marched the 23d of february, from Glogau in Silefia, with 46 squadrons and 26 battalions, entering Poland, by the way of Liffa, he marched directly to Pofna; where he defeated a body of 2000 coffacks, who guarded a magazine there, which contained fuch an immense quantity of flour, that it was fufficient to have maintained 50,000 men for three months. He carried off and destroyed feveral other vaf magazines of the ruffians; and having fully executed his commiffion, returned without lofs into Silefia, on the 18th of april.

His pruffian majesty finding that general Woberfnow had met with fuccefs; formed a fecond plan ftill more important. He was in hopes that the ruffians would not be able to attack his dominions, till late in the campaign, nor act in concert with marfhal Daun. As he imagined he had cut the austriaans off from that affiftance, he wanted to do the fame in regard to the army of the empire and the french, as the austriaans, by being feperated from their allies, would be obliged to act againft the king, under great difadvantages. Purfuant to this admirable fcheme, about the latter end of february, general Knobloch was detached from the pruffian army in Saxony, to drive fome corps of the army of the empire from Erfurth, Gotha, and Eifenach, who, if they remained there, would be able from their fituation, to take advantage of the abfence of thofe troops that were to be employed in executing this plan. The three cities were taken without oppofition, the imperialifts were drove from all that part of the country, and heavy contributions raifed in the neighbourhood.

During thefe operations, the king himfelf with the grand army, which was pofted in Lufatia, made feveral movements, with defign to draw marfhal Daun's army towards Silefia, and by that means to uncover the frontiers of Bohemia towards Saxony; the

the austrians acted just as he expected. Prince Henry, who commanded the prussian army in Saxony, of about 36,000 men, immediately laid hold of the opportunity, as he had before concerted with the king, and dividing his army into two columns, marched towards Bohemia, entering that kingdom himself at Peterwalde; the 15th of april; the column under general Hulsen doing the same by Pafsberg and Com-mota. Prince Henry found an eminence beyond Peterwalde, fortified with a redoubt, and a strong barricade before it, guarded by 600 croats, and some hungarian foot, this pass was forced; and the vanguard dividing into two bodies, one proceeded to Auffig, and the other to Toplitz: the enemy fled precipitately every where. The magazine of Auffig was destroyed, and the boats on the Elbe burnt. The vanguard returned on the 16th to the main body at Welmina. The magazines at Lowositz and Leitmeritz were seized, and the new bridge that was built there, burnt. Prince Henry from thence marched to Budin, where he destroyed another magazine; and the flames spreading by accident, set the town on fire, and did some damage.

In the mean time, general Hulsen found the pass of Pafsberg strongly guarded by two regiments of foot, and a large body of croats. The general conducted his cavalry another way, so as to fall directly on the rear of the austrians, while he attacked them with his infantry in front; which was executed so successfully, that the austrians were driven from all their intrenchments, and a general, 51 officers, and 2000 men were taken prisoners, together with three colours, two standards, and three pieces of cannon. General Hulsen marched directly to Saatz; but the austrians had burnt their magazines there, before he arrived; but he took and destroyed several others.

others *. Prince Henry, with both the divisions of the army returned to Saxony, the middle of april.

The prince gave his troops but a few days rest about Dresden; for on the 26th he marched them to Obel-Geburgen; from thence he continued his march through Voightland, towards the army of the empire; and on the 7th of may entered Franconia, by the way of Hoff. Next day a detachment from his army attacked general Macguire, who commanded a body of austrians and imperialists at Aseh; which bravely withstood all their efforts the whole day; but as he was in danger of being overpowered by numbers, and having no prospect of relief, he retired in the night through Hassau towards Egra. During this time, general Haddick, who commanded a body of austrians in Franconia, that acted in conjunction with the army of the empire, quitted the camp which he

* Magazines taken and destroyed by the prussians in this expedition.

	Tons of meal.	Loaves of bread, each four pound.	Berlin mea- sures of oats.	Rations of hay, eight pound each.
Auffig,	700		200	1000
Toplitz,	60		2000	
Lowositz,	450			
Leltmeritz,			3000	2000
Luckowitz,		36000		
Liboschowitz,			10000	
Worwitzaw,	1000	30000		
Budin,	1600		100000	20000
Saatz,	32000		20000	60000
Postelburg,	50			
Commotau,	205	4000	700	1375
Brix,	21	3400	920	19 25
	35486	73400	136820	86300

All these magazines were valued at upwards of 880,000 rix-dollars. The contributions were divided amongst the troops; every field officer received an hundred rixdollars; every subaltern fifty; every serjeant twenty; and all the private men a rixdollar a-piece; exclusive of all they had helped themselves to before.

held

held near Menchsberg, and marched in the night between the 8th and 9th to Culmbach, where he arrived the 10th in the morning; his troops were hardly encamped, when he again filed off towards Bamberg. The prince pursued him very expeditiously; he was at Murichberg the 10th, and the next day in the neighbourhood of Bareith Cronach; and Rotenburg surrendered after a short bombardment. On his approach near Bamberg, that city surrendered on terms; but some confusion happening before the capitulation was completely finished, a party of croats fired upon a party of prussians, who had approached near one of the gates; this was resented by the prince, as a breach of the capitulation; and under that pretence gave up the city to be plundered by his troops; they pillaged during the space of two days, in a very unrelenting and licentious manner; loud complaints were made all over Europe against the prussians, with great justice, on account of this affair; and afterwards produced a severe retaliation. The army of the empire, unable to stop the progress of the prince, retired to Nuremberg, and left the greatest part of the circle of Franconia to the contributions inflicted by the prussians; they would have been followed, had not the prince been informed, that a large body of austrians, under general Gemmingen had entered Saxony; this intelligence obliged him to return into that country, and accordingly he began his march from Bamberg the 21st of june.

On his retreat, the imperialists sent a detachment under count Palfy, to harass his rear, who came up with it on the 30th, near Hoff; a smart engagement ensued, in which the imperialists were intirely defeated, with the loss of a general, and a good number of men, either killed or taken prisoners. On the return of prince Henry, to his old post in Saxony, Gemmingen retired into Bohemia.

G H A P.

C H A P. XX.

Motions of the russians. Count Dohna takes the command of the prussian troops against them. Advances into Poland. Retires. Is disgraced. General Wedel succeeds him in the command. Battle of Zullichau. Motions of the king of Prussia and marshal Daun. General Laudohn joins count Soltikoff. King of Prussia joins general Wedel. Battle of Cunnersdorf. Austrian and russian armies join. Admirable conduct of the king of Prussia.

ALthough general Wobersnow had been so successful in destroying the magazines which the russians had amassed in Poland, yet his prussian majesty found he should have that enemy to deal with sooner than he expected. Having left their camp at Posna, and quitting the Vistula, they drew near to the banks of the Oder. General Manteuffel had been some time posted at Grypswalden, in Pomerania, and general Schlaberndorf at Koningswalde, to oppose them: the king also sent orders to count Dohna, who had been employed in reducing and levying contributions and levies in Mecklingberg, to march, and take the command of his troops who were destined to act against them; and he accordingly encamped with them near Custrin. The enemy began the campaign in their usual manner, by ravaging without pity the frontiers of Pomerania, Brandenburg and Silesia. As it was impossible to cover every part of such an extensive tract of country, the coffacks made inroads in different parts, where they were sure of meeting with no resistance. A body of prussian troops
under

under general Hulfen, and another under general Woberfnow, joined count Dohna's army the 26th, at Meseritz, in Poland. During his stay at this place, that general published a declaration, setting forth the reasons that induced his master to cause his troops to enter Poland; also requiring the neighbouring country to furnish provisions and forage for an army of 40,000 men, promising that every thing should be paid for with ready money. He encamped the same day at Scheverin; but as he was obliged to march with caution, and having many skirmishes with the enemy's irregulars, he did not reach Posna till the 3d instant, when he arrived in sight of it and the russian army. But the count found their numbers were too considerable, and their posts too strong to be attacked with any prospect of advantage, so that he contented himself with observing their motions; and, as they soon continued their march towards Silesia, he constantly endeavoured to harass their rear; but finding that his provisions failed, he was obliged to retreat towards the Oder, encamping near Zullichau in Silesia, and the russians doing the same between Lange-meil and Schmellan.

In the mean time, the king of Prussia was far from being contented with the conduct of count Dohna: it was more dilatory and timid than the inclinations of his majesty could bear; and he is said to have reproached that general in so severe a manner for his conduct, (which many have thought was very justifiable) that he took the first opportunity to resign his command, and under a pretence of recovering his health, retired to Berlin. The king immediately appointed lieutenant general Wedel to succeed him, and detached to his army some considerable reinforcements, giving him positive orders to engage the russians at all events.

The new general arrived at the prussian camp at Zullichau, on the 22d; and finding the next day, that

the enemy were directing their march towards Crofsen in Silefia, with design to get before his army, and by that means secure the passage of the Oder; he resolved in consequence of his master's orders, to attack them on their march. Nothing could be more advantageous than their situation; they were posted on high and almost inaccessible eminences, defended by a vast artillery, and were 70,000 strong. Wedel's army did not amount to 30,000 men; and the disadvantages they had to struggle with were excessive. They had a bridge to pass, and such a narrow defile to go through, that scarce a third of a battalion could march in front; the ground was such, that their cavalry could not support the infantry, nor their artillery be of any great service to them. All these difficulties proved but spurs to the ardor of the prussians, the attack was resolutely made, but after the greatest efforts numbers at last prevailed. General Wedel was obliged to retreat, which he did unpursued, leaving upwards of 4000 men killed or prisoners; his wounded amounting to 3000. General Woberfnow was killed, and general Manteuffel wounded. Wedel passed the Oder without opposition, and the russians made themselves masters of Francfort on the Oder, and Crofsen.

In the mean time, his majesty the king of Prussia had, about the middle of april marched his army from Rhonstock, near Strigau, to Bolchenhayn, a small town in the mountains near Landshut, where he entrenched it. Marshal Daun had collected the austrian troops in a camp a Schurtz, in the circle of Konigsgratz; about the middle of may, he detached a considerable body of troops into Lusatia, which by forced marches arrived at Spremberg, within 15 miles of Berlin, with design to surprise that city; but some prussian battalions, supported by a large body of cavalry, followed them with the greatest secrecy. The austrians perceiving their design to be discovered, changed their rout, and fell back on Liebau, the small garrison having

having retired on their approach towards the prussian camp. On the first notice which the king had of the affair, he immediately ordered his troops to march, and went himself to the place of the attack. The austrians seeing the good countenance of the prussian troops, thought proper to retire after a slight skirmish, and were pursued by the prussians, till the darkness of the night and the danger of the defiles obliged them to desist.

General Fouquet, who commanded a large body of prussian troops, in the south part of Silesia, and the austrian general de Ville, who commanded on the frontiers of Moravia, made several marches and countermarches, each endeavouring to catch some advantage of the other. About the middle of april, Fouquet made himself master of Sacorndorff and Troppau; and endeavoured to do the same with the austrian magazine, at Hoff in Moravia; but finding it impracticable, he retired to his former post at Lobschutz, in order to cover Neiss. The king left his camp at Landshut the 29th, and arrived at Neiss the same day. General de la Ville was posted on the heights behind Neustadt, and decamped that evening, placing himself behind Ziegennals and Zugmantel. The king having joined general Fouquet, marched against de Ville; but as he retired, nothing further was done in Moravia, so his majesty returned to Landshut. Marshal Daun's quarters were changed from time to time to Gitschin, Konigshoff, and Jaromirs.

That general having remained inactive in his camp at Schurtz so long, on account of the slow progress of the russians; formed a design to march round by Lusatia, and the most northern part of Silesia, and join them as soon as they had advanced far enough. It was in consequence of this plan, that he left his camp the 28th of june, and marched by Neudorf, Lomnitz, Turnau, and Reichenburg, from

whence he turned off to the Queifs, which separates Lusatia from Silesia. His prussian majesty, as soon as he had notice of this march, left his camp at Landshut, and entered Bohemia, making himself master of Schatzlar, without much resistance. On the 30th, he detached general Rebentish to occupy Trautenau; and general Seidlitz towards Hirschberg, to secure the passes, in case the austrians should attempt to enter Silesia that way. These precautions had the desired effect, for on the 16th of july general Laudohn entered Grieffenberg, with a large body of pandours and croats, and would have pushed to Hirschberg; but finding general Seidlitz there before him, with the van-guard of the prussian army, he was obliged to return back with all expedition. The king marched the same day by that place to Lahne; on the 10th, his army was at Gepperdorff; and soon after chose a strong camp on the heights before the village of Schmotzfeffen: the situation of this camp was very advantageous, both the flanks being well covered; its left was towards Liebenthal, and behind its right stood Loewenberg. Marshal Daun's head quarters were at Gorlitz-Heim in Lusatia, and his army was posted on the heights behind the Queifs, his right extending towards Grieffenberg, and the left towards Lauban. The two armies were in this situation, when his prussian majesty was informed of the defeat of his troops under general Wedel.

Marshal Daun being acquainted with the success of that action, immediately foresaw, that the king would march himself against count Soltikoff; and considering that the great want of the russian army, was a good body of cavalry; a want that had been so fatal to the common cause, last year at Zorndorff: he determined to detach a numerous corps to reinforce them. With this view, he selected about 12,000 of his horse and 8000 foot, which he divided into two columns, placing one under general Laudohn, who
com-

commanded in chief, and the other under general Haddick; the first marched through Silesia, and the other through Lusatia. General Wedel, for some time found means to prevent the designed junction by marching to Plauen, opposite to Crossen. The king, informed of this march, had, in the mean time, ordered a part of the troops which were under the command of prince Henry, to advance; and having appointed his royal highness to the command of the army opposed to marshal Daun, his majesty put himself at the head of the abovementioned reinforcement, amounting to 10,000 men; and marched on the 1st of august from Christianstadt to Sommerfeldt, from whence the corps under general Haddick retired on his approach. The prussians however came up, on the same day, with the rear guard of the austrians, and attacked it, making a considerable booty. Several other skirmishes happened, in which the prussians made near 2000 prisoners. On the 3d, general Wedel's army was at Crossen, which place he had retaken from the russians; and the king arrived the same day at Besko, and on the 4th joined Wedel at Muhlrose; but he was not able to hinder the two austrian generals from joining the russians, which they effected about the same time. His majesty still finding himself too weak to hazard an engagement with the enemy, recalled the corps of 9000 men under general Finck, which had been detached to cover Saxony; and it joined his army at Lebus on the 8th.

The reinforcement of austrians, under general Laudohn, increased Soltikoff's army to 90,000 men. That of the prussians, after general Finck had joined it, did not amount to 50,000. The russians had moreover intrenched themselves in the strongest manner, between Francfort and Cunnersdorff; and were defended with such an immense artillery, that an attack on them was excessively difficult. Yet several reasons concurred, which made it absolutely necessary

that the king should fight them. They were encamped in Silesia, the best and richest part of his dominions, which would very soon be over-run, if he deferred an action. Marshal Daun had detached several considerable parties that threatened Berlin itself. Saxony undefended, was become a prey to the imperialists, who made great progress. In short, all his dominions were in danger, and nothing could rescue them but a victory.

His majesty passed the Oder on the 11th, a mile to the north of Custrin. The passage being completed, the army formed in order of battle, near the village of Escher, and pursued its march to Bischoffsee. The reserve, under lieut. gen. Finck, took post on the eminences, between that place and Trettin. The van-guard occupied the first of those villages, behind which, the army pitched its camp. On the 12th, at two in the morning, it began its march towards Reppin, but halted in a wood, and there formed, and afterwards advanced to the russians, keeping back the left wing. As soon as the van-guard arrived at the eminence, which was opposite to the enemy's left, the king ordered several batteries to be erected, which, as well as some others raised by general Finck, poured destruction on the russians for some time; the fire began about eleven in the morning. The king designed to make his greatest efforts against the left wing of the enemy; the cannonade no sooner ceased, than he attacked it with several detachments of infantry, disposed in columns. Never did any troops exert themselves with more bravery, than the prussians on this occasion. In spite of the formidable artillery of the russians, which lined their almost impenetrable intrenchments, they attacked them, and forced them one after another, taking eighty pieces of cannon. They then passed a defile, and attacked several redoubts, which covered the village of Cunnersdorff, and mastered

stered them all. The russians made a stand at that village, by bringing on several fresh battalions to defend it ; but nothing could withstand the resolution of the prussians, they every where drove the enemy before them, with the greatest firmness, and as terrible a slaughter ; they no longer occupied the same ground, as when they began the action. In short, for upwards of six hours, the advantage of the day was entirely on the side of the prussians, who had slain upwards of 10,000 of the enemy. The king then wrote a billet to the queen, to this effect, “ Madam, “ We have drove the russians from their intrenchments, “ and have taken a vast artillery. You may soon “ expect to hear of a glorious victory.” This news arrived at Berlin just as the post was going out, so that the friends of the king of Prussia throughout Europe, exulted in the certain and decisive victory which they made not the least doubt of his having gained.

Count Soltikoff, in the mean time, finding himself defeated in almost every quarter, resolved to make his last stand on his left wing, which, though much shattered, was more entire than any other part of his army. He accordingly assembled the remains of his right wing, and drawing off the whole second line of his center, divided them both into small corps, or large battalions, formed in long squares or columns ; and with these supported the flank of his left. He had before erected a redoubt on that wing, on an advantageous eminence, called, the Jew’s burying ground ; round this redoubt, the count drew up a great body of his troops, his forlorn hope. Had the king of Prussia desisted, without attempting any thing further against the enemy, he would in all probability have had every advantage of a complete victory ; but he resolved to drive them from this post ; difficult as the attack must be, to

troops who had fought for six hours, in an excessive hot day.

The prussian infantry, ever resolute, was easily brought on to this fresh attack. But here they met with obstacles of the severest kind. The unevenness of the ground rendered it impossible for them to bring up any other artillery than a few small pieces; whereas the enemy had still a great train mounted on their intrenchments; in a situation really impregnable. Under these great disadvantages, the king's infantry were repulsed with a considerable loss; a second attack was made, with the like bad success, and a still greater loss. At last the cavalry were brought against the russians; they redoubled their furious attacks; but all was unsuccessful. Count Soltikoff seeing the prussian horse in some confusion, seized the critical moment, and let loose part of the russian, and all the austrian cavalry, which had not yet been engaged, on the weakened squadrons of the prussians. This fresh body, which was commanded by general Laudohn, met with little resistance, they broke their enemy's horse to pieces, forced them back upon their foot, threw the whole into an irreparable disorder, and a most dreadful slaughter ensued. This miserable misfortune was greatly owing to general Seidlitz's being wounded, who commanded the prussian horse, so that he was disabled from giving any orders. The king made every effort to restore the field, that skill, courage, or despair could dictate; hazarding his own person in the thickest of the fire, and prodigal of life, he thrice led on his troops to the charge; two horses were killed under him; and several balls were in his cloaths; but all was unsuccessful. Scarce an officer in his army escaped unwounded. It is very probable that the destruction of the whole prussian army would have followed, had not night came on; which enabled the king to take possession of some eminences which were easily defended, and by that

that means, to cover the retreat of his troops. As it was, his loss in this battle was much greater, than any he had sustained since the beginning of the war. The killed, wounded, prisoners, and deserters amounting to 20,000. General Putkammur was amongst the slain. The generals Seidlitz, Wedel, Finck, Hulsén, and Itzenplitz, the prince of Wurtemberg, and five major generals, were all wounded. The loss of the russians was generally calculated at about 12,000 men killed and wounded.

Such was the fatal reverse of the king of Prussia's fortune; from being almost sure of the victory, to have it snatched from him, through his own imprudence. Ever since the beginning of the war, he had never committed so fatal a mistake. Had he desisted, when he had driven the russians from their intrenchments, without throwing all into the hands of fortune a second time, he would have had all the advantages of a victory; his troops had suffered but little, whereas the enemy had sustained a great loss, both in the number of the slain, and in that of half their artillery; little doubt was made, but that they would retire immediately into Poland, leaving him the fruits of the victory, whilst they would be filling their gazettes with frivolous disputes about the field of battle, as was the case at Zorndorff. Instead of acting thus, the king led on his brave troops, who had been fighting so long a time in one of the severest actions, perhaps ever known, and in one of the hottest days ever felt, against a post of such immense strength, lined with a numerous artillery, and defended by an army still so much superior in numbers to his own, when his troops were too much exhausted for a new attempt. All the prussian generals were unanimous in their advice to the king, not to engage a second time; the above reasons, which they gave him, for a few moments had some effect; but the rapidity and vehemence of his disposition, would
not

not suffer him to bear the thoughts of being a conqueror by halves : he determined to risk one effort more, which, if successful, would, in all probability, free him for ever from this dreadful adversary. He tried it, and was defeated.

He no sooner quitted the field, than he wrote a second note to the queen, “ I have hazarded another attempt, in which I have failed ; remove from Berlin, with the royal family. Let the archives be carried to Potzdam. The city may make conditions with the enemy.” I leave the reader to judge the effect this news had on the court and city, which was received in the midst of the joy and diversions, occasioned by that which came but a few hours before. And what heightened the terror was, the confused accounts they continued to receive, which made no mention of the king ; but informed them, that an army of russians, the most dreadful of all enemies, was on the point of taking possession of their city. It was directly concluded, that the king was either dead or taken prisoner.

The day after the battle, his majesty repassed the Oder, and encamped at Retwein ; from whence he marched to Fustenwalde ; placing his troops in such a manner, as to protect Berlin from any incursions of the russians. Here he received supplies of provisions, ammunition, and cannon, from his stores at that city ; and was reinforced by general Kleist, whom he recalled from Pomerania, with 5000 men. In short, every thing was soon in the greatest order in his camp.

In the mean time the russian general, count Soltikoff, instead of marching into Brandenburg, as was expected, moved further into Silesia, and joined a large body of the austrian army, under marshal Daun. The two generals at this meeting, consulted about the most proper measure for insuring their late success ; by their motions, the king was convinced, that their design was to besiege great Glogau. Never did the

the greatness of this monarch's genius appear with clearer advantage, than in his exquisite management, by which he prevented the victorious army of the russians, united with the austrians, from making use of the victory they had so lately gained. The superior and victorious army, by the manœuvres of his prussian majesty, was obliged to act upon the defensive. Perceiving their intention of besieging Glogau, he, by a daring and masterly movement, threw himself between their army and the city; by which he effectually defeated their design. It is true, this march cut off all communication between himself and his brother Henry; but that was remedied by the admirable conduct of his royal highness; which, together with the successes of the imperialists in Saxony, and their being drove from thence by general Wunsch, I shall reserve for the subject of another chapter.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXI.

Campaign in north America. General Amherst commander in chief. Plan of operations. Expedition under general Amherst to the northward. Ticonderoga and Crown Point abandoned. Their importance. Expedition against Niagara. General Prideaux killed. Sir William Johnson succeeds him in the command. Defeats the french. Takes Niagara. Its importance. Affairs in England. Preparations in France for an invasion. Measures of the british ministry. Several squadrons sail. Havre de Grace bombarded by admiral Rodney. Toulon fleet sails. Battle of Lagos-bay. Boscawen defeats de la Clue, the french admiral. Message to the Commons. Grants.

FOUR campaigns had passed in north America, without having obtained those advantages which might reasonably have been expected, from the great force employed. But as the ministry in England seemed determined to prosecute the war in that part of the world, with all possible vigor, more sanguine hopes were now conceived from the operations there; and especially as the chief command was conferred on a young officer of distinguished merit, who had exerted himself so greatly at the taking of Louisbourg: General Amherst now commanded in America.

It had been determined in England, that the face of the war there should be new-modelled; instead of making but one real attack on the enemy, and several false ones, it was now resolved, at the same time, to attempt Quebec, by the river St. Lawrence,

Lawrence, whilst a great force attacked Crown Point, and a third expedition was undertaken against Niagara. By acting in so vigorous a manner, it was expected that the enemy would prove much weaker than hitherto, when they were enabled to collect their force to defend a single place.

General Amherst himself commanded the army, that was destined to act against Ticonderoga and Crown Point, which amounted to about 12,000 men, regulars and provincials. He was in motion very early; having employed the latter end of the winter and the beginning of the spring in preparing for the expedition. So early as the first of may, many of his troops were in motion, and he arrived himself at Albany the 12th; he set out from fort Edward the 3d of june, having posted all the regular regiments on the road thither, to assist in bringing up the provisions in the battoes. General Gage was left at Albany to bring up the rear. They arrived at the fort the 12th. The greatest care was taken by the general in his march through the woods to prevent a surprise; considerable parties were continually dispatched every way to scour the country, and inure the provincials and new raised troops to marching, and the other parts of the service. It was with great difficulty that the battoes, and other boats, in which the army was to cross the lake, were brought up. On the 21st, general Amherst, with brigadier general Gage, and a large part of the army left fort Edward; it was the end of the month before they reached lake George, on which, by degrees, the battoes and other vessels were embarked. This lake, which the french call lake Sacrament, is a water near 40 miles long, but narrow in proportion; enclosed on every side with marshy grounds, it communicates with lake Champlain, by another long and very narrow streight: and this streight is defended on each side by a fort, that towards lake George is called Ticonderoga, that next lake

lake Champlain is called by the french fort Frederick, and by us Crown Point, both of them being extremely strong by their situation, and having many considerable works built about them. It took general Amherst a considerable time to get up his artillery, ammunition, stores, and provisions, and to embark them on the lake; however, in spite of a thousand difficulties, the whole army embarked the 21st of july, and arrived with very little difficulty before Ticonderoga; at first the french made some appearance, as if they meant to defend the place. But they found in general Amherst, an enemy of much greater abilities, than any they had before opposed in this part of the world; they saw, that every operation was conducted with a prudence equal to the force employed, and having little hopes of resisting the english army long, they abandoned their lines at Ticonderoga the 23d of july; general Amherst marched into them with his grenadiers with bayonets fixed. This drew the fire of the fort on them, with cannon and mortars, but they did no execution. Having succeeded thus far, the general set about fortifying it, as its situation rendered it a post of infinite consequence, either for the prosecution of his further operations, or for covering a retreat, in case bad success made one necessary. The only loss we sustained in this acquisition was that of colonel Townshend, a young officer of great hopes, who was killed by a cannon ball.

General Amherst waited a few days, before he attacked Crown Point, for his artillery; but his troops in the mean time were thoroughly employed, in carrying on the approaches necessary, and making ready the batteries to receive their guns: although he had great reason to believe, that the french would abandon this fort, as they had done the other; yet he resolved to trust nothing to fortune, but take his measures exactly the same, as if he was sure to meet with a desperate

perate defence. His artillery came up by degrees, and when he was just on the point of attacking the fort, the french general, M. Bourlemaque abandoned it, retiring with about 3500 men and 100 cannon to the bottom of lake Champlain; and posted himself at the island called, Isle du Noix. Before he evacuated the fortress, he charged all the mortars, guns, muskets, &c. up to the very muzzles, with powder and shot, fixing port-fusees to their vents, and then setting fire to the buildings of the fort, left it; which made it impossible to approach it, without great danger; but a serjeant of regulars desired the general's permission to cut down the colours, which were then flying amongst the flames, and being permitted, he brought them off safe, for which he was rewarded with ten guineas. Mr. Amherst marched into the fort, the 4th of august; and directly set about repairing it, as he had done at Ticonderoga, where col. Montresor was left to finish the fort, and command all the troops posted from thence to Albany. The artillery, &c. taken at these two fortresses was very considerable, together with a large quantity of ammunition of all sorts.

The importance of this conquest, was, till lately, very little known. It results entirely from its situation; standing at the head of lake Champlain, by which there is a navigation to it from all parts of Canada. A small point of land, surrounded by this lake on every side, and secured by a moat towards the land, with the fortifications raised there by the french, is what was called by them, fort Frederick, and by us Crown Point. It lies mid-way, between Albany and Montreal, the two chief places on our frontiers, and those of the french. While it was in their possession, it effectually covered Canada, by blockading up our passage in that country; while it lead the french directly into New England, and New York, as was severely found by those colonies, in the beginning

beginning of this war; when the french let loose their indians from it, to scour, plunder, and burn the english frontiers. Without this post, the french would not have begun the war in America, they saw its importance so clearly, that they immediately set about strengthening it, and collecting a great force about it; but its most material strength consisted in the difficulty of getting at it; before this war, there were no roads through those extensive woods, which are between it and the settled parts of our colonies; but still they were passable enough for their indians, whose whole life is spent in hunting in them. I should lastly observe, that this fort was built in 1730, in the very middle of our colonies of New England, and New York, a clear proof how much the celebrated minister, who then governed Great Britain, knew his country's interest, or knowing it, how much he neglected it. It is to him, we owe in a great part, the existence of this war, and all that immense train of debts and expences occasioned by it.

During these operations of the commander in chief, those in other parts of America were no less advantageous. I have before hinted, that one part of the general plan of the campaign, was to attack the french fort at Niagara. General Prideaux commanded in this expedition; the provincials and indians under him were commanded by Sir William Johnson. The siege was but just formed, when brigadier general Prideaux was killed by the bursting of a cohorn, which happened the 20th of july. On his death, the command of the army devolved on general Johnson, who continued to pursue the deceased general's vigorous measures, with the greatest alacrity; he was enabled to do this, in a country where the provincials and indians are of such great service, not only by his own abilities, but by the great interest he has amongst them. He pushed the
siege

siege with so much ardor, that in a few days he had erected his third battery within an hundred yards of the flag bastion. The french alarmed at these vigorous operations, began to be in pain for the place; they therefore collected all their regular troops and provincials, which they had about the lakes, amounting to near 2000 men, and joining to these a large body of indians, they advanced to give the english battle.

General Johnson having intelligence from his indians of their approach, made a disposition to prevent their throwing succours into the fort. The 23d in the evening, he ordered the light infantry, and piquets of the line, to lie near the road on his left, leading from the country where the french army was assembled to the fort. These he reinforced the next morning, with the grenadiers, and part of the 46th regiment, all under the command of lieutenant colonel Massey. Lieutenant colonel Farquhar, with the 44th battalion, was ordered to the tail of the trenches, to support the guard commanded by major Beckwith, in case the garrison should make a sally. The action soon after began, with that horrid scream of the indians, which had before been one of the principal causes of general Braddock's defeat, by striking a terror into those troops, who were unaccustomed to this kind of fighting; but now the english army was so well disposed to receive them in front, and their indians on the flank, that, in less than an hour's time, the whole french army was ruined. The number of the slain was not ascertained, as the pursuit was continued for five miles. Seventeen officers were made prisoners, among whom were M. d'Aubry, chief and M. de Lignery, second in command. After this defeat, which was in sight of the garrison, sir William sent major Harvey into the fort, with a list of the officers taken, recommending it to the governor to surrender, before more blood was shed, and while he

had it in his power to restrain the indians. The governor, to be certain of such a defeat, sent an officer of his to see the prisoners; they were shewn to him; which had such an effect, that he capitulated that very night. The garrison, consisting of about 600 men, surrendered prisoners of war, and were conducted to New York. The fort and the stores, which were considerable, was given up to the english troops.

The conquest of this fort was of infinite consequence to the security of the english colonies; it is without exception the most important pass in America; and by its situation, secures a greater number of communications, through a more extensive country, than perhaps any other pass in the world. It is in the middle of the country of the six nations, between their chief settlements and their many dependants and confederates, and in a manner entirely commands them all; having on one side the mountains, which abound in game; and on the other, the great lakes, and being surrounded every way, by one or the other, with the whole continent open to it on the west, and our colonies on the east; so that none can pass that way, or have any access to the interior parts of north America, without crossing endless mountains on one hand, or broad seas on the other, but by the narrow pass of Niagara, and an unfrequented path at the heads of the Ohio, which lead up that river. The only communication between Canada and Louisiana, and the country on the banks of the Ohio is by Niagara; all the other encroachments, except Crown Point, quite to the mouth of the Mississippi are supplied from Canada, and consequently by this pass. By the advantage of its situation, it also gives its possessors the benefit of the fur trade, with a multitude of indian nations, spread far and near over the whole continent of north America; and also the navigation of all the great seas of fresh water, called the five lakes

lakes of Canada, to the extent of 1300 miles. In short, it prevents or secures the junction of the two french colonies in Canada and Louisiana; laid our colonies open to the incursions both of the french and their indians, whilst it was in their hands; and secures them from both, if in our possession.

As to those immense lakes, which are all in a manner commanded by this fort, the reader need only cast his eyes on a map of north America, to be convinced of their importance. They afford by far the most noble and extensive inland navigation in the world. Whoever is the master of them must, sooner or later, command that whole continent. They are all surrounded by a fine and fruitful country, in a temperate and pleasant climate. The day may possibly come, when this noble country, which one would think is calculated for universal empire, will sufficiently display its own importance.

The affairs of Great Britain in Europe, were equally glorious; the spirit of the nation was now accustomed to success, which diffused a general joy over the whole kingdom, the more just, as it was well founded. The parliament, the ministry, and every order of the people, vied with each other in promoting the interest of their country. What proved a great spur to this unanimity, was the vast preparations that were making in all the ports of France, with design to invade Great Britain. Three different embarkations were to be undertaken. M. Thurot, who had been so active in the command of a french privateer, the marshal de Belleisle, in destroying the english trade, was to command a small squadron of royal ships, and several transports, from Dunkirk, which were intended against Scotland. Great preparations were making in the ports of Normandy, for a second embarkation against England, in flat bottomed boats of a new construction, many of which, had been built for that purpose. The third expedition, which was ima-

gined to be against Ireland, was preparing in the ports of Britanny, the embarkation to be made from Vannes and Nants; and covered by a formidable fleet preparing in Brest, under the command of M. de Conflans; a great body of troops* was assembled in that province, under the duke d'Aguillon. Had all these expeditions succeeded as I have here represented them, so far as to land their troops, there is no doubt but it would have thrown Great Britain into terrible confusion; and it is impossible to say what would have been the consequence.

But the most vigorous measures were taken by the ministry in England, to counteract these preparations. A squadron under commodore Boys was stationed before Dunkirk. Admiral Rodney, with a second was sent to bombard Havre de Grace. Admiral sir Edward Hawke blocked up the harbour of Brest, with a very strong squadron; and a smaller kept a watch upon that of Vannes. The first advices that were received from these several fleets were from admiral Rodney. The squadron under his command, consisting of four ships of the line, two frigates, two sloops, and six bomb vessels, sailed from St. Hellen's the 2d of July, and anchored the next day in the great road of Havre, the admiral placed the bombs in

* By an account which the french court published of their armaments, it appeared, that the number of troops to be employed on the invasion amounted to 53,000 men, consisting of 63 battalions of infantry: and the following cavalry, viz. 200 mousquetaires, 400 life guards, 150 horse grenadiers, 200 gen d'armes and light horse, 2560 horse, making eight regiments, 2400 dragoons, 2609 legion-royale, arillerie, &c. The prince of Conti commander in chief,

Prince de Soubise,

Cour de Thomond,

} Field marshals.

Eight lieutenant generals, 12 major generals, 18 brigadier generals, 26 ships of the line, 12 frigates, 18 fireships, 6 chebecs, 8 armed gallies, 500 transports, 20 physicians, 100 surgeons, 50 apothecaries, 2 chaplains in each ship.

the

the narrow channel of the river, leading to Harfleur, it being the most proper and only place to do execution from. About seven in the evening, two of the bombs were stationed, as were all the rest early the next morning, and continued to bombard for 52 hours without intermission, with such success, that the town was several times in flames; and their magazine of stores for the flat bottomed boats, burnt with very great fury for upwards of six hours, notwithstanding the continual efforts of several hundred men to extinguish it; and many of the boats were overturned and damaged by the explosion of the shells. During the attack, the french troops appeared very numerous, were continually erecting new batteries, and throwing up intrenchments; their consternation was so great, that all the inhabitants left the town. This service was performed with very inconsiderable loss in the squadron.

Part of the french plan of an invasion consisted in being able to bring round a strong squadron of ships which they had equipped at Toulon, from thence to Brest, to unite all their strength at that port. To prevent this, admiral Boscawen * had been stationed before the harbour of Toulon to block it up. But some unfavourable weather, and the foulness of his ships, obliged him to retire to Gibraltar to refit: the french took this opportunity to slip out, and they proceeded with great diligence to the streights. Mr. Boscawen, in the mean time had very near got

* With the following ships under his command,

Ships.	Guns.	Ships.	Guns.
Namur	96	Intrepid	64
Prince	90	Edgar	64
Newark	86	America	64
Culloden	74	St. Albans	60
Warspite	74	Jersey	60
Conqueror	74	Portland	60
Swiftsure	70	Guernsey	50

Besides fireships and frigates.

his ships ready to sail; and that the french fleet might not escape him, he ordered the *Lime* and *Gibraltar*, (the only frigates ready) the first to cruise off *Malaga*, and the last from *Estepona* to *Ceuta Point*, to give him notice of their approach. On the 17th of august, at eight in the evening, the *Gibraltar* made the signal of their appearance; the admiral was so very expeditious, that he got under sail out of the bay, by ten, with his whole squadron, of fourteen sail of the line, and two fireships. At day-light, he saw the *Gibraltar*, and seven sail of large ships lying to; but on his not answering their signal, they made sail from him. As there was a fresh gale, the english fleet came up with them fast, till about noon, when it fell little wind. About half an hour past two, some of the headmost ships began to engage; but Mr. *Boscawen* could not get up to the french admiral's ship, the *Ocean*, till near four, when he began to engage her. In about half an hour his own ship, the *Namure's* mizen mast, and both top-sail yards were shot away; the *Ocean* then made all the sail she could. The english admiral shifted his flag to the *Newark*, and soon after the *Centaur*, of 74 guns, struck. He pursued all night; and in the morning of the 19th, saw only four sail standing in for land, (two of their best sailors having altered their course in the night). About nine, the *Ocean* ran on shore amongst the breakers, and the three others anchored. Admiral *Boscawen* sent the *Intrepid* and *America* to burn the *Ocean*; the former could not get in, but the latter performed the service alone: On his first firing at the *Ocean*, she struck; the english captain sent his officers on board; but M. de la Clue, the french admiral, having lost one leg, and the other being much wounded, had been landed about half an hour, and died soon after. Captain *Kirk*, of the *America*, finding it impossible to bring the *Ocean* off, set her on fire. Captain *Bentley*, of the *Warspite*, was ordered against the

the Temeraire, of 74 guns, and brought her off with little damage, the officers and men all on board. At the same time, vice-admiral Broderick, with his division of the english fleet, burnt the Redoubtable, her officers and men having quitted her, being bulged; and brought the Modeste of 64 guns off, with very little damage. The scattered remains of their fleet *, with difficulty got into the harbour of Cadiz, where they remained a considerable time blocked up.

This victory, so advantageous to Great Britain, was purchased at a very cheap rate. Amongst the english ships were no more than 56 killed, 196 wounded; 13 of the former, and 44 of the latter were on board Mr. Boscawen's ship, which had more of each, than any other in the fleet. It is difficult to say, which was greatest, the cowardice of the french, or the bravery of the english. Had de la Clue formed a line, and fought Boscawen regularly, it is thought by many he would have escaped much better than he did. The english fleet had the superiority only of two ships of the line, but the

* Which at first consisted of the following ships;

Ships.	Guns.	
Ocean	80	} burnt.
Redoubtable	74	
Centaur	74	} taken.
Souveraine	74	} escaped.
Guerrier	74	
Temeraire	74	} taken.
Fantasque	64	} lost company.
Modeste	64	} taken
Lion	64	} lost company coming through the Streights.
Triton	64	
Fier	50	
Oriflamme	50	
Chimere	26	
Minerve	24	
Gracieuse	24	

Besides two ships more of the line, unknown.

french ships were much larger in bulk, and had a superiority in number of men; so that on the whole, the two fleets were pretty near of equal force. The cowardice or incapacity of M. de Clue was manifest, had his fleet been rather inferior, it is the duty of every admiral to form his line and fight, instead of separating his ships and running away; but this blow was as glorious to Britain, as it was disgraceful to France. It weakened the force with which they intended to execute the invasion; and, what was of more consequence, considerably sunk the spirits of the french sailors, who found how unequal they were in action to the english.

In the mean time, nothing was omitted in England to render abortive the designs of the french. For this purpose, his majesty sent the following message to the house of commons, on the 21st of may, by Mr. secretary Pitt.

“ GEORGE, R.

His majesty, relying on the experienced zeal and affection of his faithful commons, and considering that, in this critical juncture, emergencies may arise, which may be of the utmost importance, and be attended with the most pernicious consequences, if proper means should not immediately be applied to prevent or defeat them, is desirous, that this house will enable him to defray any extraordinary expences of the war, incurred, or to be incurred for the service of the year 1759, and to take all such measures as may be necessary to disappoint or defeat any enterprizes or designs of his enemies, and as the exigencies of affairs may require.”

The house of commons took this message into consideration directly; and on the 24th, resolved that there should be granted to his majesty, for the purposes

poses mentioned therein, one million upon account*.
So large a sum voted unanimously was an unquestion-
able

* Grants for the year 1759.	1.
For 60,000 seamen, including 14,845 marines, and ord- nance for sea service,	3120000
For 52,343 men, for guards and garrisons, and other land forces in Great Britain, Guernsey, and Jersey,	1256131
For the pay of the general and staff-officers, and officers of the hospital,	52484
For the forces and garrisons in the plantations, and Gi- braltar, and for provisions for the garrisons in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Providence, Cape Breton, and Senegal,	742531
For four regiments of foot and one battalion, on the Irish establishment, serving in North America, and Africa,	40879
For the office of the ordnance of the land forces,	220700
For the extra-expence of the ordnance in 1758, not provided for,	323988
For the ordinary of the navy, including half-pay to sea- officers,	238491
For the support of Greenwich hospital	10000
For 38,000 of the troops of Hanover, Wolfenbuttle, Saxe Gotha, Buckeburg, with the general and staff- officers,	398698
For 19,012 Hessians, with the general and staff-officers of the hospital, and train of artillery, pursuant to treaty,	339480
Towards defraying the charges of forage, &c. for the army under prince Ferdinand,	500000
Towards paying off the debt of the navy,	1000000
For allowance to the officers and private men of the horse guards, and regiments of horse reduced, and the superannuated men of the horse guards,	2909
To the reduced officers of the land forces and marines,	34368
For the pensions of the widows of ditto, married before december 25, 1716,	2128
To the king of Prussia, pursuant to the convention,	670000
To the landgrave of Hesse Cassel, pursuant to treaty,	60000
To defray the like sum raised last sessions, and charged upon the first aids,	800000
For building, re-building, and repairing his majesty's ships,	200000
For the out pensioners of Chelsea hospital,	26000
	For

able proof what great harmony reigned in every part of the constitution and administration; so much the contrast of what was to be seen in France, where the ministry

For widening and enlarging the passage over London bridge,	l.
To the foundling hospital,	15000
For transport service and victualling the land forces for 1758,	50000
For supporting the colony of Nova Scotia, for 1759,	667772
For defraying the charges of supporting ditto, in 1757,	9902
For the civil establishment of Georgia, from june 1758, to ditto, 1759,	11279
To make good the deficiency of the additional duty on licences for retailing wine, the duty on coals exported, &c. july, 1758,	4058
To make good the deficiency of the duty on glass and spirituous liquors,	24371
For supporting the british forts on the coasts of Africa,	8882
To Roger Long D. D.	10000
For paying and cloathing the militia, to March 25, 1760,	1280
For the extra expences of land forces, &c. in 1758, not provided for,	90000
For fortifying Chatham dock,	466786
For fortifying Portsmouth town,	708
For fortifying Plymouth citadel,	6937
For fortifying Milford haven,	25159
For paying the debts upon the estate, forfeited to the crown upon the attainder of lord John Drummond,	10000
To the East-india company, for defending their settlements,	69911
To the provinces in north America, for the expences of troops raised by them,	20000
To the innholders on which the hessian troops were billeted in 1758,	200000
For augmenting the salaries of the judges in Great Britain,	2500
To the widows of Nicholas Hardinge, esq. for the balance of an account, for printing the journals of the house of commons,	11450
For interest of money laid out, to purchase land about Chatham, Portsmouth, and Plymouth,	779
For purchasing lands about ditto,	1716
To defray any expence of the war, in 1759,	2443
	1000000
Total	12749860

ministry found it a matter of the greatest difficulty to raise money, even when they tried the most oppressive methods; The exhausted state of that kingdom became every day more manifest, owing to the vast losses their trade had sustained.

It is now time to take a view of the operations of the two armies on the Weser, where we shall find Britain attended with the same success, where it was least expected.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXII.

Motions of the two armies on the Weser. Hereditary prince detached towards Paderborn. Battle of Minden. Great bravery of the english infantry, &c. The french army defeated. Hereditary prince defeats the duke of Brisac. Fine conduct of duke Ferdinand. He enters Minden. His orders after the battle. Lord G—— S——'s letter to col. Fitzroy, and answer. Captain Smith's declaration. Remarks on the conduct of lord G—— S——. He obtains leave to return to England. Duke Ferdinand pursues the french. Munster blockaded. Investiture of duke Ferdinand with the order of the Garter.

I Left the hanoverian army under duke Ferdinand of Brunswick, just arrived in the camp at Peter-shagen, and that of France, under marshal de Contades, in their camp near Minden. This position of the french, was chose with great judgment, and the advantages resulting from it, were of such importance, that nothing could be attempted against them. The strength of their camp prevented its being attacked; their right extended near Minden, their left was defended by a steep mountain; their rear was guarded by a rivulet, and several ridges of hills, and in their front was a marsh, inaccessible only in a narrow passage, which led into the plain of Minden. The situation of this camp, rendered it impossible for the duke to attack it; and, at the same time, nothing but a battle could possibly prevent the french army from taking up their winter quarters in the electorate of Hanover. Contades had it in his power to stay in the

the camp at Minden as long as he pleased, as all the country in his rear was in his possession, and from whence he could draw his forage and provisions, during the remainder of the campaign; whereas duke Ferdinand being so much inferior in force to the french, would be obliged to retreat, whenever marshal Contades should think proper to advance. This was the opinion of the french generals, and it was feared in England, that their schemes would prove but too successful. The greatest gloom spread over the electorate; the archives, and every thing valuable was removed from Hanover to Stade; and the inhabitants once more expected and dreaded a french army being quartered on them.

In the mean time duke Ferdinand, attentive to every motion of the french, and every advantage of their present situation, saw that it was impossible to attack them in their camp; but as a battle alone could retrieve the affairs of the allies, the point he endeavoured to compass, was to draw them out of it into the plain, as he might there fight them on more equal terms; but the movements which were necessary to effect this, were extremely hazardous and difficult to an army so much inferior as his serene highness's; but dangerous as they were, he resolved to execute them.

The 27th of july, he detached the hereditary prince of Brunswick, with 6000 men, to make a compass towards the enemy's left flank, and to post himself in such a manner, as to cut off the communication of their convoys from Paderborn. The duke's army did not amount to 40,000 men, when he sent off the detachment, whereas the french army was near 90,000 strong; the weakening his force, before so much inferior to his enemy, convinced the french generals that his serene highness did not intend to fight.

The

The 29th, duke Ferdinand left his camp at Petershagen, and marched toward Hillen, a village considerably to his right, with the greatest part of his army, leaving general Wagenheim behind him at Thornhausen, on the brink of the Weser, with a considerable body of troops under his command, strongly intrenched, and defended by a numerous artillery. The duke, as soon as he arrived in his camp at Hillen, gave orders that the generals should take particular notice of the nine debouchés, by which the army might advance to form in the plain of Minden, that they might be well acquainted with them, in case they should be ordered to advance in front. And at the same time lord George Sackville, the commander in chief of the british forces in Germany, was appointed lieutenant general of the day. The 31st in the evening, the prince further ordered, that at one o'clock the next morning, the army should be ready to march; that the cavalry must be saddled; the artillery horses harnessed, and the infantry gatered; but the tents were not to be struck, nor the troops put under arms till further orders.

The french, in the mean time, were very attentive to the motions and designs of prince Ferdinand. On the 31st, at six in the evening, a grand council of war was held at marshal de Contades's quarters, consisting of all the generals in the french army; and the result of it was, that they should march to the enemy that very night, and attack them at day-break. The marshal gave the generals the order of the march, and the disposition of the attack. The army was to move in eight columns to the ground, where it was to be formed in battle array, which was the plain before Thornhausen, where general Wagenheim was intrenched. Marshal Contades formed the whole plan of the action, upon a supposition, that duke Ferdinand having removed the greatest part of his army so far to the right of Hillen, was at too great

great a distance from Wangenheim, to succour him; and as that general's corps was but weak, it was not doubted, but it would prove a very easy task to defeat it; the consequences of which would be, that prince Ferdinand's communication with the Weser would absolutely be cut off, which was the very thing that the french aimed at, ever since the battle of Bergen, without being able to effect it.

It was under these notions that marshal Contades left his advantageous camp on the 1st of august, crossed the marsh, and moved into the plain of Minden, to attack general Wangenheim. The duke of Broglio was charged with that attack, and his order bore, that after routing and overwhelming it, he should fall on the left flank of duke Ferdinand's army, and thereby facilitate the attack and victory of the marshal's grand corps.

The whole french army was marching into the plain of Minden, by five o'clock in the morning. The duke of Broglio's first line consisted of nine battalions, his second of nine, and his reserve of three. His cavalry was posted in two columns, behind the left of his infantry, that it might form in battle array to support it in case of need. This corps came close to the Weser. Their cavalry formed the center of the french army, and occupied a heath; and the infantry of their left extended to the marsh near the village of Hahlen. The duke of Broglio's corps was the first that arrived at its post; but before he had occupied his ground, he was obliged to wait some time, till the other divisions of the french army came up, when he advanced to cross an eminence, which was between him and the plain, whereon the french army was to be drawn up in order of battle. He had no sooner arrived at the top of this eminence, than he was struck with the utmost amazement, when instead of Wangenheim's intrenchments weakly guarded, he beheld the whole hanoverian army, drawn up
in

in excellent order, on the plain before him, and extending from the banks of the Weser, quite to the morass, in the front of the late french camp. This was a stroke of generalship entirely unexpected. But let us return to the motions of duke Ferdinand, who had been able to deceive his enemy in such an exquisite manner.

I before mentioned that the duke gave orders in the evening of the 31st of july, for the army to be ready to march at one o'clock the next morning; and he also recommended it to all the advanced posts to be very attentive, and to inform him of the least motion they should observe during the night. By some mistake the order was not brought to lord George Sackville, so that, instead of the horses being saddled at one o'clock, as had been directed, they were not saddled before four. The night passed without the duke's receiving any intelligence of the enemy. But about three in the morning, M. de Redan, adjutant general, informed him of the arrival of two deserters, with the news, that the enemy's army was marching to attack him, and that they had passed the marsh at midnight. Although this information was a little exaggerated, yet how important soever was the news they brought, it did not reach the duke till near three in the morning, whereas the deserters arrived at Hactim at ten o'clock the preceding evening. He immediately sent every aid de camp he had about him, in order to make the army strike their tents, form, and march without the least delay. His order was speedily put in execution, although it was not brought to lord George Sackville, by another mistake, so that the army was drawn up in lines before he knew any thing of the matter; but the french having raised a battery at Eickhorst, which played early in the morning, on some out posts on the right of the hanoverian army, with intent to draw the attention of the prince that way, the firing waked his lordship,

and

and being informed, that the army was drawn up, he immediately repaired to the head of the line, and the whole army marched in eight columns from the camp at Hille, a little before five o'clock. The cavalry of the right wing formed the first; the heavy artillery the second; the infantry of the right, the third and fourth; the heavy artillery of the center, the fifth; the infantry of the left wing the sixth and seventh; and the eighth column consisted of the cavalry of the left wing. General Wangenheim's corps having moved out of its camp, much about the same time, through the openings already made in the dyke of Landwehr, was formed in order of battle, at the same time with the rest of the army. The grenadiers of his corps were posted upon the right of the batteries at Thornhausen; the eight battalions of infantry in the hedges of Kutenhausen, upon the right of the grenadiers; and the 18 squadrons of cavalry, in the open fields upon the right of the infantry. Between six and seven, the whole allied army drew up in order of battle, having its right, consisting of cavalry, under lord George Sackville, extended towards the village of Hartum; its center was composed of infantry; and its left of general Wangenheim's corps, and some german cavalry. The right wing had on its left a wood, which though thin and open, prevented that wing from seeing the infantry of the center; the country in the front of it was corn fields, for some distance, and then an open plain, where the picquets of the army under the prince of Anhalt, as lieutenant general of the day were drawn up, near the village of Hahlen; and from thence were dispatched the picquets of the infantry, with two howitzers, to get possession of Hahlen, wherein the enemy had thrown two battalions.

This was the position of the allied army, when the duke of Broglie beheld it from the eminence above-mentioned. He directly acquainted marshal Contades

of this unexpected appearance ; but it was then too late to recede. Indeed their situation was at that time very disadvantageous ; they were cooped up between the hanoverian army, the morafs and the Wefer. About seven o'clock the french began to fire upon a battery in the front of the right wing of the allied army, from one in the front of their left wing ; but as soon as the english artillery was prepared, (of which that battery confifted) it returned their fire, and in lefs than ten minutes silenced the enemy's guns.

In the mean time, duke Ferdinand finding the french slower than he expected, ordered the infantry of his center to advance againft the center of the french, which confifted of the flower of their cavalry, and who anticipated the fhock of the allies, by attacking their infantry. The whole brunt of the battle was fufained by a few regiments of english and hanoverian foot, who repulfed the reiterated and fierce attacks of the french cavalry, with a firmnefs hardly ever equalled ; and having been expofed, as they marched about 1500 paces to meet the enemy, to an extreme smart cannonade from two french batteries (pofted at fome diftance from each other) which played on them obliquely ; but notwithstanding the lofs they fufained by this cannonade, before they could get up to the enemy, notwithstanding the furious and repeated attacks of all the french cavalry, notwithstanding the efforts, and a fire of mufketry, well kept up by the enemy's infantry, notwithstanding their being expofed in front and flank, fuch was the unfhaken firmnefs of thefe troops, fuch their refolution, ftadinefs, and expertnefs in their manœuvre, never exceeded, perhaps, never equalled, that nothing could ftop them ; they cut to pieces feveral bodies of the enemy's cavalry, and entirely routed the whole of it. The faxon foot, which were on the left of the french horfe, made a fhew of coming down upon thofe conquering regiments, and attempted to fupport their broken cavalry ;
but

but they vanished before the english infantry. Never did troops behave in a more intrepid manner; the english regiments, Kingsley's, Napier's, Stuart's, Huske's and Brudenel's; but especially the three former; the hanoverian guards, and Hardenberg's regiment, all behaved to admiration. At the same time, the attack which the french made on the left of the hanoverian army, and on the corps under general Wangenheim, was attended with the like bad success. The latter maintained pretty near the same position, during the whole action. The batteries erected under the care of the count la Lippe Buckeburg, grand master of the artillery, in the front of Thornhausen, contributed greatly to decide the fortune of the day, as he soon silenced two batteries of the enemy's, and made, at the same time, great havock among the Swiss, and the grenadiers de France.

Just at the time, when the center of the french army began to give way, which was between eight and nine o'clock, his serene highness duke Ferdinand sent his aid du camp, captain Wintzingerode, to lord George Sackville, with orders for him to move with the cavalry under his command, through the thin wood on his left, then to form on the heath, in the rear of the infantry, and advance to support it. Lord George misunderstood that particular of his order, which required him to march through the trees on the left; and the dispositions he made to execute this order, were such, as if the cavalry were to move streight forward. He ordered captain Hugo, one of his aid du camps, to clear his front of the Saxe-Gotha regiment of foot, which had been posted there; he ordered captain Broome, another of them, to go forward, to reconnoitre the position of the enemy; and sent captain Lloyd, another aid du camp, to find out the hanoverian infantry, and report to him their situation. In about seven or eight minutes after Wintzingerode left lord George, captain Ligonier, another

ther aid du camp to prince Ferdinand arrived with a second order, for the cavalry to advance, in order to profit from the disorder which appeared in the enemy's cavalry. His lordship then, on receiving this, drew his sword, and gave the word to march; on which the cavalry moved a few paces forward: captain Ligonier then told him, it was to the left he was to march. At that minute, lieutenant colonel Fitzroy, third aid du camp to duke Ferdinand, came up and delivered an order to lord George Sackville, for the british cavalry only to advance to the left, upon which his lordship turned to captain Ligonier, and said, their orders were contradictory; he answered, they differed only in numbers, the destination of his march was the same, to the left. Colonel Fitzroy offered to lead the column himself, through the wood on the left, where he imagined they might pass two squadrons in front; but his lordship was not satisfied with the order, and again observed, that it was different from captain Ligonier's, and that he could not imagine the prince would break the line; and the two aids de camp persisted, that the order each brought was right; his lordship then desired lieutenant colonel Fitzroy to lead him to the prince, that he might have an explanation of the orders; which was accordingly done; but as he passed through the wood, observing that it was not so thick as he before imagined, he sent back captain Smith, one of his aids de camp, to bring up the british cavalry. Just before his lordship came up, the duke a second time dispatched lieutenant colonel Fitzroy, with orders for the cavalry to advance as fast as possible, and directed him to carry this order to lord Granby, who commanded the second line of cavalry. It was immediately executed, and lord George, while he was taking the prince's orders shewed him that line of cavalry coming through the wood. The prince gave him his own orders, to form the cavalry on the heath, and sustain the infantry. This order

lord

lord George Sackville, proceeded to put in execution, and placing himself at the head of the line, marched it (after it had got through the wood) to the rear of a body of infantry. These were all the movements which the cavalry of the right wing made that day, and when his lordship arrived at the rear of the infantry, the battle was over.

About nine o'clock in the morning, the french army gave way : a general confusion soon followed ; and about ten the whole of it fled in disorder : part took shelter under cover of the cannon of Minden, and the rest made the best of their way over that part of the marsh, which they had before crossed, and broke down the bridges to prevent their being pursued. The duke of Broglie covered the retreat : he occupied with his infantry, the gardens near Minden ; soon after which, his cavalry followed the main body of their army. Towards the end of the battle, the artillery of the right of the allied army was marched forward till it arrived close to the marsh, and then played upon the french army, which had retreated into its old camp, when they left it, and retired further back behind some high grounds near Dutzen, with their right extending towards the Weser.

The battle of Minden was now over, but the consequences hitherto, were far from being fatal to the french ; they had lost a great number of men, it is true, and had all the disgrace of a total defeat ; but then their advantageous situation was still of the same consequence to them, and from which they would not have been drove, had not prince Ferdinand detached the hereditary prince to cut off their convoys, which came by the way of Paderborn ; this young hero completed the defeat.

The duke de Brissac commanded a body of seven or eight thousand men, which marshal Contades had posted near Coveltdt, to guard his convoys, and keep possession of the passes in his rear ; the here-

ditary prince attacked him on the 1st of august ; after making the following dispositions : the position of the french was inaccessible in front, and there was no other way to come at them, but by surrounding their left ; for which purpose three attacks were formed, all of which were to depend on the success of that on the right : the troops destined for which, consisted of three battalions, four squadrons and 200 volunteers. Four battalions, one squadron, and all the heavy artillery, composed the center : the left was formed of three battalions and four squadrons. The troops of the center were designed to keep the enemy at bay, whilst those of the right should surround their left ; those of the prince's left were to march to a bridge near a place called the Salt Pitts, in order to prevent the enemy's retreat to Minden. The hereditary prince himself marched with the right ; count Kilmansegge was in the center ; and M. de Dreves and M. de Bock brought the left. As soon as count Kilmansegge had come out of a defile in his way, the french presented themselves before him ; and a cannonade began on both sides. The right was to pass the Weser, in order to turn the enemy's left, upon a very narrow bridge. This difficulty was in an instant removed by the gallantry of the prince, who setting himself the example, the infantry forded the river, partly behind the horsemen, and partly in peasants waggons. By this passage, the position of the french was entirely changed ; the fire of the artillery was brisk on both sides, and lasted two hours. At last, on the hanoverians shewing themselves on the rear of the french, the latter immediately gave way, and, in filing off, came upon the skirts of M. de Bock, who received them with a discharge of artillery, which was well supported. At last, finding themselves entirely surrounded, they had no other resource but in flight. The hereditary prince took five pieces of cannon, and all the baggage of the french.

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By this stroke, which does such infinite honour to the genius of duke Ferdinand, all the passes through which the french could draw succour or provision were seized. That victory, which was before so inconclusive, now was decisive. Marshal Contades received the news of the duke of Brissac's defeat, just as the english infantry was marching up to attack the french cavalry, he admired the judicious boldness of the duke, in detaching so large a number of men, at the very time, when he was on the point of engaging an enemy so much superior. The marshal immediately abandoned his strong post, and passing the Weser, retreated on the eastward of that river; losing in this manner all the advantages he had gained during the whole campaign, and forced to retreat through a country different from that through which he had advanced, and in which he had taken no measures for subsistence.

The french lost in this battle about 8000 men, killed, wounded, and prisoners; among the latter of whom were the comte de Hutzelbourg, and the marquis de Monti, marechaux de camp, and M. de Vogué, colonel; and many other persons of distinction. Thirty pieces of cannon, twelve colours, and eight standards were taken.

The admirable conduct of prince Ferdinand in those manœuvres, which brought on the battle, is perhaps one of the most perfect and finished pieces of generalship, that ever was executed; the masterly motions that he made, to draw the french out of their impenetrable camp; his detaching the hereditary prince with 6000 men from his army, just when he was endeavouring to bring the enemy to an engagement, who had a superiority of 50,000 men; in short, the whole conduct of his serene highness displayed such a sagacity and penetration, such guarded and judicious boldness, that never any action spoke a more exalted genius.

The 2d of august, duke Ferdinand issued the following orders from his head quarters at Suderhemmeren, viz. " His serene highness orders his greatest thanks to be given to the whole army for their good behaviour yesterday, particularly to the british infantry, and the two battalions of hanoverian guards; to all the cavalry of the left wing; and to general Wangerenheim's corps, particularly to the regiment of Holstein, the hessian cavalry, the hanoverian regiment of du corps, and Hamerstin's; the same to all the brigades of heavy artillery. His serene highness declares publicly, that, next to God, he attributes the glory of the day to the intrepidity and extraordinary good behaviour of these troops, which he assures them he shall retain the strongest sense of as long as he lives; and if ever, upon any occasion, he shall be able to serve these brave troops, or any one of them in particular, it will give him the greatest pleasure. His serene highness orders his particular thanks to be likewise given to general Sporcken, the duke of Holstein, lieutenant generals Inhoff and Urff. His serene highness is extremely obliged to the count de Buckeburg, for all his care and trouble in the management of the artillery, which was served with great effect; likewise to the commanding officers of the several brigades of artillery, viz. colonel Bowne, lieutenant colonel Hutte, major Hassé, and the three english captains Philips, Drummond, and Foy. His serene highness thinks himself infinitely obliged to major generals Waldegrave, and Kingsley *, for the great courage and good order in which they conducted their brigades. His serene highness further orders it

* Kingsley was wounded at the head of his brave regiment, and fell off his horse, a squadron of french cavalry rode over him without his receiving any hurt from them; as he was lying on the ground a french soldier was going to run him through with his bayonet; but he discovered himself, was taken prisoner, and afterwards retaken by his own men.

to be declared, to lieutenant general the marquis of Granby, that he is persuaded, that if he had had the good fortune to have had him at the head of the cavalry of the right wing, his presence would have greatly contributed to make the decision of that day more complete and more brilliant. In short, his serene highness orders, that those of his *SUITE*, whose behaviour he most admired, be named, as the duke of Richmond, colonel Fitzroy, captain Ligonier, colonel Watson, captain Wilson, aid de camp to major general Waldegrave ; adjutant generals Ersthoff, Bulow, Derendolle, the counts Tobe and Malherti ; his serene highness having much reason to be satisfied with their conduct. And his serene highness desires and orders the generals of the army, that, upon all occasions, when orders are brought to them by his aids de camp, that they be obeyed punctually, and without delay."

The duke, on discovering a mistake in the preceding order of thanks, to the officers of the british artillery, by which captain Macbean was omitted to be mentioned, his serene highness was pleased to write a letter with his own hand to him, which was delivered by his excellency count la Lippe Buckeburg, grand master of the artillery in the allied army, and of which the following is a translation :

" SIR,

It is from a sense of your merit, and a regard to justice, that I do in this manner declare, I have reason to be infinitely satisfied, with your behaviour, activity, and zeal, which in so conspicuous a manner you made appear, at the battle of Thornhausen, on the first of august. The talents which you possess in your profession, did not a little contribute to render our fire superior to that of the enemy ; and

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it is to you and your brigade that I am indebted for having silenced the fire of a battery of the enemy, which extremely galled the troops and particularly the british infantry.

Accept then, sir, from me, the just tribute of my most perfect acknowledgments, accompanied with my sincere thanks. I shall be happy in every opportunity of obliging you, desiring only occasions to prove it, being with the most distinguished esteem,

Your devoted, and

entirely affectionate servant,

FERDINAND,

Duke of Brunswick and Lunenburg."

And his serene highness again on the 3d, issued another order, viz.

" In the compliment his serene highness made to the troops yesterday, he forgot four regiments, that particularly distinguished themselves, viz. Hardenburg's, third battalion of hessian guards, prince William's, and Gillse's: it is not that his serene highness has reason to complain of any others, but as they had particular opportunities of distinguishing themselves, it is for that reason his serene highness mentions the attention he himself gives to their good conduct."

Soon after another order came out to the following effect: " His serene highness duke Ferdinand sent orders to monsieur Hedeman his treasurer, to pay the following officers of the british artillery, the undermentioned gratuities, as a testimony of his great satisfaction of their gallant behaviour in the late action of the first of this month:

To

To captain Philips	1000 crowns.
To captain Macbean	500
To captain Drummond	500
To captain Williams	500
To captain Foy	500

I hope the said gentlemen will accept of this present from his highness, as a mark of his particular esteem for them." This condescending and affectionate manner, in which the prince thanked the particular officers for their good behaviour, rendered him extremely dear to the whole army ; and it was the greatest incentive to raise an emulation amongst them to endeavour at rendering themselves conspicuous by their conduct and courage when they found their general so quick-sighted in perceiving and rewarding merit.

In the mean time, the orders of the 2d of august, which shewed how much dissatisfied the duke was with the conduct of lord George Sackville, could not but touch that commander to the quick. There clearly appeared some very great fault in the cavalry of the right wing's not obeying the duke's orders to advance ; owing, as we have great reason to believe, to his lordship's wasting that time in requiring an explanation of his highness's orders, which ought to have been spent in their execution. However, his lordship wrote the following letter to col. Fitzroy, the 3d of august, dated at Minden.

" DEAR SIR,

The orders of yesterday, you may believe, affect me very sensibly. His serene highness has been pleased to judge, condemn, and censure, without hearing me, in the most cruel and unprecedented manner ; as he never asked me a single question in explanation of any thing he might disapprove, and

as he must have formed his opinion on the report of others, it was still harder he would not give me an opportunity of first speaking to him, upon the subject; but you know, even in more trifling matters, that hard blows are sometimes unexpectedly given. If any body has a right to say, that I hesitated in obeying orders, it is you. I will relate what I know of that, and then appeal to you for the truth of it.

When you brought me orders to advance with the british cavalry, I was then very near the village of Hahlen, as I think it is called; I mean that place which the saxons burnt. I was there advanced by M. Malhorte's order, and no further, when you came to me. Ligonier followed almost instantly; he said the cavalry was to advance. I was puzzled what to do, and begged the favour of you to carry me to the duke, that I might ask an explanation of his orders. But that no time might be lost, I sent Smith with orders to bring on the british cavalry, as they had a wood before they could advance, as you directed; and I reckoned by the time I had seen his serene highness, I should find them forming beyond the wood. This proceeding of mine might possibly be wrong; but I am sure the service could not suffer, as no delay was occasioned by it. The duke then ordered me to leave some squadrons upon the right, which I did; and to advance the rest to support the infantry. This I declare I did, as fast as I imagined it was right for cavalry to march in line: I once halted by lord Granby, to complete my forming the whole. Upon his advancing the left before the right, I again sent to him to stop. He said, as the prince had ordered us to advance, he thought we should move forward; I then let him proceed at the rate he liked, and kept my right up with him, as regular as I could, till we got to the rear of the infantry and our batteries. We both halted together, and afterwards received no
order

order till that which was brought by colonel Webb and the duke of Richmond, to extend one line towards the morafs. It was accordingly executed, and then, instead of finding the enemy's cavalry, to charge, the battle was declared to be gained, and we were told to difmount our men.

This I proteft is all I know of the matter; and I was never fo furprised, as when I heard the prince was diffatisfied, that the cavalry did not move fooner up to the infantry. It is not my bufinefs to ask, what the difpofition originally was, or to find fault with any thing. All I infift upon, is, that I obeyed the orders I received, as punctually as I was able; and if it was to do over again, I do not think I fhould have executed them ten minutes fooner than I did; now I know the ground, and what was expected; but indeed we were above an hour too late, if it was the duke's intention to have made the cavalry paffed before our infantry and artillery, and charge the enemy's line. I cannot think that was his meaning, as all the orders ran, to fustain our infantry: and it appears, that both lord Granby and I understood we were at our pofts, by our halting when we got to the rear of our foot.

I hope I have ftated impartially the part of this tranfaction, that comes within your knowledge. If I have, I muft beg you would declare it, fo as I may make ufe of it in your abfence; for it is impoffible to fit filent under fuch reproach, when I am confcious of having done the beft that was in my power. For God's fake, let me fee you before you go for England.

I am, dear fir,

Your faithful humble fervant,

SACKVILLE."

To

To this letter colonel Fitzroy returned the following answer, dated the same day at Minden.

“ My lord,

His serene highness, upon some report made to him by the duke of Richmond, of the situation of the enemy, sent captain Ligonier and myself with orders for the british cavalry to advance. His serene highness was, at this instant, one or two brigades beyond the english infantry, towards the left. Upon my arrival on the right of the cavalry, I found captain Ligonier with your lordship. Notwithstanding I declared his serene highness's orders to you : upon which, you desired I would not be in a hurry. I made answer, that galloping had put me out of breath, which made me speak very quick. I then repeated the order for the british cavalry to advance towards the left, and at the same time mentioning the circumstance that occasioned the orders, “ That it was a glorious opportunity for the english to distinguish themselves ; “ and that your lordship by leading them on would “ gain immortal honour.”

You yet expressed your surprise at the order, saying, it was impossible that the duke could mean to break the line. My answer was, that I delivered his serene highness's orders, word for word, as he gave them. Upon which, you asked, which way the cavalry was to march, and who was to be their guide. I undertook to lead them towards the left, round the little wood on their left, as they were then drawn up, where they might be little exposed to the enemy's cannonade.

Your lordship continued to think my orders neither clear nor exactly delivered ; and expressing your desire to see prince Ferdinand, ordered me to lead you to him ; which order I was obeying, when you met his serene highness. During this time, I did not see the

the cavalry advance. Captain Smith, one of your aids de camp, once or twice made me repeat the orders I had before delivered to your lordship; and I hope he will do me the justice to say they were clear and exact. He went up to you, whilst we were going to find the duke, as I imagine, being sensible of the clearness of my orders, and the necessity of their being immediately obeyed. I heard your lordship give him some orders. What they were, I cannot say; but he immediately rode back towards the cavalry.

Upon my joining the duke, I repeated to him the orders I had delivered to you, and appealing to his serene highness, to know whether they were the same he had honoured me with, I had the satisfaction to hear him declare, they were very exact. His serene highness immediately asked, where the cavalry was; and upon my making answer, that lord G—— did not understand the order; but was coming to speak to his serene highness, he expressed his surprise strongly.

I hope your lordship will think I did nothing but my duty, as aid de camp, in mentioning to his serene highness my orders being so much questioned by your lordship.

I am, &c."

Lord G—— S——, as he resolved to get his recall as soon as possible, endeavoured as much as he could, to get such letters and declarations tending to clear his conduct; to carry home with him; besides the above letter, he got his aid de camp, capt. Smith, to sign a declaration * of what he knew concerning

" Minden, august 3.

* What I have to say with regard to the orders colonel Fitzroy brought, and to their not being put in execution, is—I heard lord G—

cerning colonel Fitzroy's orders. It is no wonder his lordship was willing to throw off so deep a stain, as the implied censures in the orders of the 2d of august. Time was certainly lost—and the most precious time that could have been used. Had lord G—— S—— obeyed the first order brought to him from the duke, and made a regular and vigorous charge on the french cavalry, already in confusion, the consequences would, in all probability, have been fatal to the french army—and never victory would have been more complete. In a few days after the battle, he resigned his command, and obtained his majesty's permission to return to England. As soon as he arrived in London, he wrote to the * secretary of state, requesting

G—— S—— say, on his receiving them, as they differed from those he had just before received by captain Ligonier, he would speak to the prince himself; and accordingly put his horse in a gallop to go to him. I immediately went up to colonel Fitzroy, and made him repeat the orders to me twice.—I thought it so clear and positive, for the british cavalry only to advance where he should lead, that I took the liberty to say to his lordship, I did think they were so; and offered to go and fetch them, whilst he went to the prince, that no time might be lost. His answer was, he had also an order from the prince, from Mr. Ligonier, for the whole wing to come away; and he thought it impossible the prince could mean that. I replied, that if he would allow me to fetch the british, they were but a part, and if it was wrong, they could sooner remedy the fault.—He said, then do it as fast as you can.—Accordingly I went, as fast as my horse could go, to general Mofyn.—He knows the rest.—This is all that passed, as near as I can recollect.—It was spoke as we galloped, and could not be long about, as I have been on the ground since, and do not believe, when his lordship sent me back, I had above six hundred yards to go to general Mofyn.”

“ My lord,

* I have the honour of acquainting your lordship of my arrival in England, in pursuance of his majesty's permission, sent to me at my request, by your lordship.

I thought myself much injured abroad, by an implied censure of my conduct; I find I am still more unfortunate at home, by being publicly

requesting a court martial, and was assured for answer, that his desire should be gratified, as soon as the officers, capable of giving evidence, could leave their posts. However, before his lordship received this answer, he was dismissed from all his posts. The marquis of Granby succeeded him in his command, and in the lieutenant generalship of the ordnance, and his regiment was given to general Waldegrave. As his lordship was afterwards tried by a court martial, I shall dismiss the subject at present, till I come to to speak further of it on that occasion.

In the mean time, duke Ferdinand followed his victory so close, that the french had not a moment allowed them to recover their order. The 4th the army marched to Coovelt, and the 5th to Hervorden. The same day, lieutenant general Urff, with seven battalions and 20 squadrons, was detached to Lemgow, and arriving at Detmold the 5th, he surrounded and took 800 prisoners, together with the heavy baggage of the french army, among which were found mar-

publicly represented as having neglected my duty in the strongest manner ; by disobeying the positive orders of his serene highness prince Ferdinand. As I am conscious of neither neglect nor disobedience of orders ; as I am certain I did my duty to the utmost of my abilities ; and as I am persuaded that the prince himself would have found, that he had no just cause of complaint against me, had he condescended to have enquired into my conduct, before he had expressed his disapprobation of it, from the partial representation of others : I therefore most humbly request, that I may at last have a public opportunity given me of attempting to justify myself to his majesty, and to my country, by a court martial being appointed ; that if I am guilty, I may suffer such punishment as I may have deserved ; and, if innocent, that I may stand acquitted in the opinion of the world ; but it is really too severe, to have been condemned before I was tried, and to have been informed neither of my crime, nor my accusers.

I am, my lord, &c. &c. &c.

G. SACKVILLE.

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shal Contades's papers, with the original letters of the duke de Belleisle to the marshal, which were of so curious a nature, that the officer who took them was offered two millions of livres for their ransom, but refused it; the ministry in England afterwards published some of them. The 6th, the army marched to Bielefeld; the 8th, to Stukenbroeck, and the next day to Paderborn. The hereditary prince of Brunswick, at the head of 15,000 men, passed the Weser at Hamelen the 4th, and pursued the flying enemy, with the greatest expedition. The french magazines at Osnabrug, Minden, Bielefeld, Paderborn, Dulmen, and Warrendorff, were all either taken or destroyed.

Marshal de Contades was obliged by want of subsistence, to make his retreat towards Cassel; the allied army pursued him, without intermission; on the 11th it was at Delemand, the next day encamped at Stalberg: on the 13th, it entered the county of Waldeck, and directed its march so as to gain the flank of the enemy, who was then posted in the neighbourhood of Cassel. But Contades abandoned that city, the 18th, and retired towards Marpourg. Major Frickicks of the hanoverian chasseurs summoned Cassel, and it surrendered after some cannon shot, with a garrison of 400 men, prisoners of war, together with 1500 wounded, which the french had been obliged to leave behind them; a very considerable magazine was also taken there.

Munster was still in the hands of the french; but duke Ferdinand detached general Inhoff with a strong corps to besiege it. He began to bombard and cannonade it the 3d of september; marshal Contades however, knowing the importance of that place, also detached M. d'Armentiers, with a body of troops, which were increased on their march to 14 or 15,000 men, to relieve it. Inhoff did not think it adviseable to continue the siege, while the enemy had so great a superiority;

superiority; he raised it on the 6th, retiring with his corps between Nobisbruck and Telligent. Some days after he received a reinforcement of troops, which enabled him in his turn to drive M. d'Armentiers from under the cannon of Munster; on which he again reassumed the siege; the french general retired towards Wesel, a place which had been of the greatest service to the french during this campaign.

In the mean time, duke Ferdinand continued his pursuit: the 22d of august his army halted at Francenburg. The hereditary prince, with the corps under his command, was then at Haina, and being joined there by the prince of Holstein, and general Wangenheim, with their respective corps, he marched the 24th to Wohra, and arrived the next day at Schonstedt. On the 23d, lieutenant colonel Freitag attacked Ziegenhayn, the governor capitulated, after an hour's defence; and the garrison of 400 men were made prisoners of war. The hereditary prince, one of the most active officers in the world, marched with a very strong corps to dislodge the famous partizan Fischer, from the post of Wetter, where duke Ferdinand intended to encamp. The prince attacked him with the greatest bravery, and defeated him with great loss, besides 400 prisoners he took. Lieutenant colonel Harvey of the Inniskilling dragoons, meeting with Fischer, struck his head off at one blow with his broad sword. By this action, the allies became masters of all the Wetteraw. On hearing of their success, duke Ferdinand marched by the way of Monighausen, and encamped at Wetter.

In this swift pursuit, the hereditary prince was always foremost in harrassing the flying enemy. His highness commanded a detachment from the right of the allied army; and having passed the Lahne, he

pushed forward to Neider-Weimar, where he surprised a party of the enemy, took two pieces of cannon, and some prisoners. Marshal Contades, to put a stop to the progress of the allies, threw a garrison into Marbourg; but duke Ferdinand marching to Neider-Weimar became master of that town in a few days, making 800 men prisoners of war. He remained in that camp some time; and marshal Contades had his head quarters at Anroth; the river Lahn being between the two armies. The 18th of september, a detachment from the allied army made themselves masters of Wetzlar, but were soon after dislodged by the duke of Broglie. The next day, duke Ferdinand marched to Korbach, where he fixed his head quarters, his army encamping about two miles from Gießen, with their right to Rothen, and their left to Weimar; he also posted a body of troops opposite Wetzlar, under general Wangenheim and the prince of Bevern. In this situation, the duke remained for some time; employing his army in little detachments, which were continually beating up the enemy's quarters, and harassing them even to the walls of Franckfort. Munster was still blockaded by general Inhoff; that he might be the more expeditious in reducing it, the duke sent him a reinforcement from his camp at Korbach, of four battalions and four squadrons.

In the month of october, duke Ferdinand was invested with the order of the garter; the marquis of Granby and S. Martin Leake, esq. being appointed by his majesty plenipotentiaries for that purpose. The ceremony was performed with all the magnificence that a camp would permit; and the marshal Contades was so extremely polite, as to order a general discharge of his artillery, during the investiture, in honour of his serene highness.

The

The battle of Minden, an event so unexpected *, threw the court of Versailles into the utmost confusion. The king was told of it just as he was going to hunt ; but the ill news struck him so sensibly, that

* To shew how little the court of France thought of this event, I need only lay before the reader, a letter from the duke de Belleisle to marshal Contades, which was taken amongst the rest of the marshal's papers after the battle.

“ Versailles, july 23, 1759.

SIR,

I am still afraid that Fischer set out too late : it is however very important and very essential, that we should raise large contributions. I see no other resource for our most urgent expences, and for refitting the troops, but in the money we may draw from the enemy's country ; from whence we must likewise procure subsistence of all kinds, (independently of the money) that is to say, hay, straw, oats, for the winter, bread, corn, cattle, horses, and even men to recruit our foreign troops. The war must not be prolonged, and perhaps it may be necessary, according to the events which may happen, between this time and the end of september, to make a downright desert before the line of quarters, which it may be thought proper to keep during the winter, in order that the enemy may be under a real impossibility of approaching us : at the same time, reserving for ourselves a bare subsistence on the route, which may be the most convenient for us to take in the middle of the winter, to beat up, or sieze upon the enemy's quarters.

That this object may be fulfilled, I cause the greatest assiduity to be used in preparing what is necessary for having all your troops, without exception, well cloathed, well armed, well equipped, and well refitted, in every respect before the end of november, with new tents, in order that, if it be adviseable for the king's political and military affairs, you may be able to assemble the whole, or part of your army, to act offensively, and with vigor, from the beginning of january ; and that you may have the satisfaction to shew our enemies, and all Europe, that the french know how to act and carry on war, in all seasons, when they have such a general as you are, and a minister of the department of war, that can foresee, and concert matters with the general.

You must be sensible, sir, what I say to you may become not only useful and honourable, but perhaps even necessary, with respect to what you know, and of which I shall say more in my private letter.

he retired to the apartment of madam de Pompadour, in a dejected manner, and for several days saw none of his ministers. The general opinion of the people laid all the blame on the marshal Contades, and he threw it on the duke of Broglio; the marshal duke de Belleisle lost much of his credit; but still preserved a considerable part of his influence with his sovereign.

But it is time to take a view of some military transactions in another quarter, no less glorious and advantageous than those of which we have been speaking.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXIII.

Expedition against Quebec. Armament sails from Louisburg. Occupies the isle of Orleans. Situation of the french army. Action at the falls of Montmorency. The army removes to Point Levi. It goes up the river. Lands at Sillery. Battle of Quebec. General Wolfe killed, and general Moncton wounded. General Townshend takes the command. M. de Montcalm killed. French defeated. Quebec surrenders. Motions of general Amherst on lake Champlain. Builds several vessels. Sails against M. de Bourlemaque. Returns. Fortifies Crown Point. His army goes into winter quarters. Reflections on the campaign in north America.

THE principal part of the plan for the campaign in north America, which I before mentioned, consisted in an attack on Quebec, the capital of all the french empire in those parts; at the same time that general Amherst advanced towards the river St. Lawrence, by the way of Crown Point. As this was to be the decisive stroke, so the greatest force was to have been employed against it. The armament destined for this service rendezvoused at Louisburg. The fleet consisted of 19 sail of the line * besides

Ships.	Guns.	Ships.	Guns.
* Neptune	90	Alcide	64
Royal William	80	Devonshire	64
Princess Amelia	80	Captain	64
Dublin	74	Sterling Castle	64
Shrewsbury	74	Pr. of Orange	60
Northumberland	70	Medway	60
Oxford	70	Pembroke	60
Somerset	70	Bedford	60
Vanguard	70	Centurion	54
Terrible	64	Sutherland	50
Trident	64		

frigates, transports, &c. &c. &c.; commanded by admirals Saunders, Holmes, and Durel. The land forces amounted to 7000 regulars and provincials, commanded by major general Wolfe; brigadiers general Moncton and Townshend were second in command. The whole sailed from Louisburg the 5th of June; and anchored at Isle Bie 70 leagues up the river, the 19th, where the fleet was divided into three divisions, in order to make the passage the easier. The 27th the fleet anchored between the island of Orleans, and the south shore, on which the army landed that evening. As this island extends quite up to the harbour of Quebec, it was necessary to possess it before any operations could be begun against the town; for the most westerly point of it (which is not above four miles from Quebec) advances towards another high point of land on the continent, called point Levi. It was absolutely necessary to possess these two points, and fortify them; because from either the one or the other, the enemy might make it impossible for any ship to lie in the basin of Quebec.

Quebec lies in lat. 40. 32. long. 60. 40. at 120 leagues distance from the sea, and is the only fresh water harbour in the world, which is so spacious as to contain an hundred sail of men of war of the line; and at such a great distance from the sea. From the mouth of the river St. Lawrence to the isle of Orleans is 112 leagues, and is no where less than from four to five leagues broad; but above that island it narrows, so that at Quebec, it is not above a mile broad.

This city, which was founded in 1608, consists of an upper and lower town; the latter is built at the foot of a high rock, on the top of which the upper town stands. It is the seat of the governor general, intendant, and the supreme tribunals of justice for all Canada. Many of its buildings, both public and private are elegant and grand. The whole city
is

built with stone; the merchants generally live in the lower town for the convenience of their trade; which, before the war was considerable. It contains about 7000 souls. The fortifications were not regular; but they had been long at work to render it capable of a siege: the town, as it is, is naturally strong, the port was flanked with two bastions, which at high tides were almost even with the water. A little above the bastion to the right, is a half bastion, cut out of the rock; a little higher was a large battery, and higher still is a square fort, called the citadel, which was the most regular of all the fortifications; and in which the governor resided. The ways which communicate between these works are extremely rugged. The rock which separates the upper from the lower town extends itself, and continues with a bold and steep front, westward along the river St. Lawrence, for a considerable way. Another river from the north west, called St. Charles, falls here into the former, washing the foot of the rock on which Quebec stands; the point on which the town stands thus becomes a sort of peninsula, by the junction of these rivers; so that, to attack the city, it is necessary to make the approaches above the town, and overcome the precipice which I have mentioned, or cross the river St. Charles, and attempt it upon that side. Both of these methods would be extremely difficult; as in the former the precipice would be in his way defended by all the enemy's force; and in the latter, the country from the river St. Charles to the northward for more than five miles is extremely rough, broken and difficult, full of rivulets, gullies, and ravines, and continues so, to the river Montmorenci, which flows by the foot of a steep and woody hill. On this side the river St. Lawrence is a bank of sand of great extent, which prevents any considerable vessel from approaching the shore.

It

It was in this advantageous situation that the french army commanded by M. de Montcalm, who had been so often successful against the english in north America, was posted, extending along from the river St. Charles to that of Montmorenci, intrenched at every accessible spot, with the river and sand bank abovementioned in their front: and thick impenetrable woods upon their rear: there never was a stronger post; it was impossible to attack them in it; and whilst they remained there, it was in their power to throw succours into Quebec every day. The marquis de Montcalm very wisely resolved to continue in this post, although his force amounted to near 12,000 men, besides indians.

When general Wolfe learned that succours of all kinds had been thrown into Quebec; and perceived the strength of the french army, and its advantageous situation; he despaired of being able to reduce the place. But he sought however an occasion to attack their army, knowing well, that with his troops he was able to fight, and hoping that a victory might disperse them.

I have before said, that as soon as the general landed on the isle of Orleans, he perceived the absolute necessity of possessing himself of the two points Levi, and Orleans; soon after his landing, he received advice from the admiral, that there was reason to think the enemy had artillery and a force on the former of these points; wherefore, he detached brigadier Moncton with four battalions, to drive them from thence: The brigadier passed the river the 29th at night, and marched the next day to the point; he obliged the enemy's irregulars to retire, and possessed himself of that post. The general also detached colonel Carleton to point Orleans, from whence his operations were likely to begin. Batteries of cannon and mortars were erected with great dispatch, on point Levi, to bombard the town and magazines, and to injure the works
and

and batteries: the french perceiving these works in some forwardness, passed the river with 1600 men to attack and destroy them. Unluckily they fell into confusion, fired upon one another, and went back again, by which the english lost an opportunity of defeating this large detachment. The effect of the batteries on Levi point was very great, although they fired across the river, the upper town was soon considerably damaged, and the lower town entirely destroyed.

On the 28th at midnight, the garrison sent down from Quebec seven fireships; and though the english ships and transports were so numerous, and necessarily spread so great a part of the channel, yet they were all towed clear aground without suffering the least damage. Admiral Saunders was stationed below in the north channel of the isle of Orleans, opposite to Montmorenci; admiral Holmes was stationed above the town, at once to distract the enemy's attention, and to prevent any attempts from them against the batteries that played upon the town.

The beginning of july, general Wolfe sent a flag of truce to the commandant, publishing his design of attacking the town, on the part of his britannic majesty; at the same time signifying that it was his majesty's express command, to have the war conducted without practising the inhuman method of scalping, and that it was expected the french troops under his command to copy the example, as they should answer the contrary. The marquis de Vadreuil returned a very polite answer; intimating his surprise, that with so few forces, he should attempt the conquest of so extensive and populous a country as Canada.

The works for the security of the hospitals and stores upon the island of Orleans being finished, on the 9th of july at night, general Wolfe caused the troops to be transported over the north channel of the river St. Lawrence, to the north east of the river
Montmorenci,

Montmorenci, with a view of passing that river, and forcing the enemy to an engagement. The ground on his side the river was higher than that on the enemy's side, and commanded it in such a manner, that the general was of opinion it might be made useful to him. There is besides, a ford below the falls in the river Montmorenci, which may be passed for some hours in the latter part of the ebb, and beginning of the flood tide; Wolfe had hopes that possible means might be found of passing the river above, so as to fight the marquis de Montcalm upon terms of less disadvantage, than directly attacking his intrenchments. In reconnoitring the river Montmorenci, he found it fordable at a place three miles up; but the opposite bank was intrenched, and so steep and woody, that it was to no purpose to attempt a passage there.

The 18th of july, two men of war, two armed sloops, and two transports with some troops on board passed by the town without any loss, and got into the upper river. This enabled the general to reconnoitre the country above: but he there found the same attention on the enemy's side, and the same disadvantages on his own, arising from the nature of the ground, and the obstacles to his communication with his fleet.

However, general Wolfe, to divide the enemy's force, and to draw their attention as high upon the river as possible, and to procure some intelligence, sent a detachment under colonel Carlton, to land at the point de Trempe, to attack whatever he might find there, bring off some prisoners, and all the useful papers he could get. The general had been informed, that a number of the inhabitants of Quebec, had retired to that place, and that probably he would find a magazine of provisions there. The colonel was fired upon by a body of indians the moment he landed; but they were soon dispersed, and driven into the wood: he searched for magazines, but to no purpose;

purpose; brought off some prisoners, and returned with little loss.

The latter end of the month, the marquis de Montcalm sent down the river above an hundred fire stages; but the admiral having advice thereof some hours before, the whole fleet was prepared for the alarm. Nothing could be more dreadful than these machines; each was about 18 feet square, composed of rafts of timber to a considerable height, filled with the most combustible materials, and armed with drags and grapplings, to lay hold of hawsers and cables; each separately representing a lofty pillar of solid fire, and numbers of them uniting, would frequently form a rank of fire a quarter of a mile long. Even these did the english fleet no harm, being dragged ashore by the boats.

The general found that no assaults on the city would prove of any service, whilst the fleet could only batter the lower town, and must suffer greatly by the cannon and bombs of the upper; for after the reduction of the lower town, the passages to the upper were so extremely steep, and moreover so well intrenched, that this advantage would prove little towards the conquest of the city. The only point left therefore, was, by every means to entice or force the enemy to an engagement. Nothing was ever finer contrived, than the manœuvres which general Wolfe made to bring that design to bear. But M. de Montcalm, in chusing his post was well apprised of its importance, he kept himself close in it, disposing his parties of savages, in which he was very strong, in such a manner as make any attempt upon him by surprise absolutely impossible. Nevertheless, in spite of every difficulty, the general resolved to take the first opportunity which presented itself, of attacking the enemy; though posted to such great advantage, and every where prepared to receive him.

As

As the men of war could not (for want of sufficient depth of water) come near enough the enemy's intrenchments, to annoy them in the least, the admiral prepared two transports (drawing but little water) which upon occasion, could be run aground, to favour a descent. With the help of these vessels, which the general understood would be carried close in shore; he proposed to make himself master of a detached redoubt near the water's edge, and whose situation appeared to be out of musket shot of the intrenchment upon the hill: If Montcalm supported this detached piece, it would necessarily bring on an engagement, what the general most wished for; and, if not, he would have it in his power to examine the enemy's situation, so as to be able to determine where he could best attack them.

Preparations were accordingly made for an engagement. The 21st of july in the forenoon, the boats of the fleet were filled with grenadiers, and a part of brigadier Moncton's brigade from point Levi: the two brigades, under brigadiers Townshend and Murray, were ordered to be in readiness to pass the ford, when it should be thought necessary. To facilitate the passage of this corps, the admiral had placed the Centurion in the channel, so that she might check the fire of the lower battery, which commanded the ford: this ship was of great use, as her fire was very judiciously directed. A great quantity of artillery was placed upon the eminence, so as to batter and enfilade the left of their intrenchments.

From the vessel which run aground nearest in, general Wolfe observed, that the redoubt was too much commanded to be kept without very great loss; and the more as the two armed ships could not be brought near enough to cover both with their artillery and musketry, which at first he conceived they might. But as the enemy seemed in some confusion, and his troops were prepared for an action, he thought it a proper

proper time to make an attempt upon their intrenchments. Orders were sent to the brigadiers general to be ready, with the corps under their command ; brigadier Moncton to land, and the brigadiers Townshend and Murray to pass the ford. At a proper time of the tide the signal was made ; but in rowing towards the shore, many of the boats grounded upon a ledge, that runs off at a considerable distance. This accident put them into some disorder, lost a great deal of time, and obliged Mr. Wolfe to send an officer to stop brigadier general Townshend's march, whom he then observed to be in motion. While the seamen were getting the boats off, the enemy fired a number of shot and shells ; but did no considerable damage. As soon as this disorder could be set a little to rights, and the boats ranged in a proper manner, some of the officers of the navy went in with the general to find a better place to land. They took one flat bottomed boat with them to make the experiment ; and, as soon as they had found a fit part of the shore, the troops were ordered to disembark, as it was thought not yet too late to make the attempt.

Thirteen companies of grenadiers, and 200 of the second royal american battalion got first on shore. The grenadiers were ordered to form themselves into four distinct bodies, and to begin the attack, supported by brigadier Moncton's corps, as soon as the troops had passed the ford, and were at hand to assist. But whether from the noise and hurry at landing, or from some other cause, the grenadiers, instead of forming themselves, as they were directed, ran on impetuously towards the enemy's intrenchments in the utmost disorder and confusion, without waiting for the corps which was to sustain them, and join in the attack. Brigadier Moncton was not landed, and brigadier Townshend was still at a considerable distance, though upon his march to join them in very great order.

der. The grenadiers were checked by the enemy's first fire, and obliged to shelter themselves in or about the redoubt, which the french abandoned upon their approach. In this situation they continued for some time, unable to form under so hot a fire; and having many gallant officers wounded, who (careless of their persons) had been solely intent upon their duty. The general saw the necessity of calling them off, that they might form behind brigadier Moncton's corps, which was then landed, and drawn up on the beach in exceeding good order. By this new accident and this second delay, it was near night, a sudden storm came on, and the tide began to make, so that general Wolfe very wisely thought it not advisable to persevere in so difficult an attack, lest, in case of a repulse, the retreat of brigadier Townshend's corps might be hazardous and uncertain.

Nothing could be better chosen, than the place where Mr. Wolfe made this attack. It was the only spot wherein his artillery could be brought into use, and it had a good effect upon the left of the french. The greatest part, or even the whole of the troops might act at once. And, a retreat (in case of a repulse) was secure, at least for a certain time of the tide. Neither one or other of these advantages were to be found in any other place. The french were indeed posted upon a commanding eminence. The beach upon which the troops were drawn up, was of deep mud, with holes, and cut by several gullies. The hill to be ascended very steep, and not every where practicable. The enemy numerous in their intrenchments, and their fire hot. If the attack had succeeded, the loss of the english must have been great, and that of the french inconsiderable, from the shelter which the neighbouring woods afforded them. The river St. Charles remained still to be passed, before the town was invested. All these circumstances the general considered; but the desire to act, in conformity

formity to his sovereign's intentions, induced him to make this trial, persuaded, as he himself gallantly expresses it, that a victorious army finds no difficulties. General Wolfe made a noble retreat, exposing his person with that intrepidity, which distinguished him during the attack.

The loss sustained in this check was not inconsiderable; and the bad success discouraged the general from making any further attempts upon that side. But immediately after it, he sent brigadier Murray above the town with 1200 men, directing him to assist rear-admiral Holmes in the destruction of some french men of war (if they could be got at) in order to open a communication with general Amherst. The brigadier was to seek every favourable opportunity of fighting some of the enemy's detachments, provided he could do it upon tolerable terms; and to use all the means in his power to provoke them to attack him. The men of war sailed up the river for more than 12 leagues: the brigadier made two different attempts to land upon the north shore, without success; but in a third was more fortunate. He landed unexpectedly at de Chambaud, and burnt a magazine there, in which were some provisions, some ammunition, and all the spare stores, cloathing, arms, and baggage of the french army; but finding that their ships were not to be got at, and that there was little prospect of bringing the enemy to a battle, he reported his situation to the general, who thereupon ordered him to join the army. The prisoners he took, informed him of the success of sir William Johnson against Niagara; they learned likewise, that the french had abandoned Crown Point and Ticonderoga. But this intelligence, otherwise so pleasing, brought them no prospect of the approach of any assistance from that quarter. The season wasted a pace; and what was equally of bad consequence, the general fell violently ill of a fever, consumed by care, watching,

and fatigue, too great to be supported by so delicate a body, which was so unequal to the greatness of the soul which it lodged. It was death to him to think of returning home, without being victorious : and and although he knew every thing was executed to ensure success, which his enterprising genius could suggest ; yet he also knew how partial the world is to success, and that no military conduct can shine unless gilded with it. In short, the fear of not being successful, the hopes of his country, and great success of other generals turned inward upon him, and converted disappointment into disease *. As soon as he was a little recovered, he dispatched an express, with an account of his proceedings, to England ; we may trace throughout it several marks of his despair of taking the town ; but, although his letter is wrote in the stile of despondency, yet, he has expressed himself with such perspicuous elegance, that we may fairly say, he fought and wrote with the same spirit.

It was determined in a consultation which he held with his general officers, a little before he sent away his dispatches, that, (as more ships and provisions were then got above the town) they should try, by conveying up a corps of 4 or 5000 men (which was nearly the whole strength of the army, after the points of Levi and Orleans were left in a proper state of defence) to draw the enemy from their advantageous situation, and bring them to an action.

This determination was accordingly put in execution. General Wolfe drew off all his artillery, stores, baggage, &c. from his camp at Montmorency, which was broke up, and the troops, &c. conveyed to the south east of the river, and encamped at point Levi. The squadron under admiral Holmes made movements up the river, for several days successively, in order to draw the enemy's attention as far from the

* Campbell.

town as possible. But nothing could induce M. de Montcalm to quit his post; indeed these feints succeeded in some measure, as it induced him to detach M. de Bougainville with 1500 men to watch their motions; and to proceed along the western shore of the river, while the english army directed its march the same way on the eastern bank.

On the 5th and 6th of september, the general marched from point Levi, and embarked the forces in transports, which had passed the town for that purpose. And as soon as he saw that matters were ripe for action, he ordered the ships under admiral Saunders to make a feint, as if they proposed to attack the french in their intrenchments, on the Beauport shore below the town, and by their motions to give this feint all the appearance of a reality which it possibly could have. This disposition being made below the town; general Wolfe ordered the light infantry, commanded by colonel Howe, the regiments of Bragg, Kennedy, Lascelles, and Anstruther, with a detachment of highlanders, and the american grenadiers, the whole under the command of brigadier Moncton and Murray, to be put into the flat bottomed boats, about one in the morning of the 13th. To amuse the enemy, and conceal his real design, they went with admiral Holmes's division three leagues further up the river than the intended place of his landing; then the boats fell down silently with the tide, unobserved by the french centinels posted along the shore. The rapidity of the current carried them a little below the intended place of attack; the ships followed, and, by the greatest good management in the world, arrived just at the time which had been concerted to cover their landing. Never was moment more critical; never any conduct more admirable, both on the part of the land and sea service, than what was displayed on this occasion, amidst the continual danger

of losing the communication in a dark night, and on such a rapid current.

The troops not being able to land at the place proposed ; they were put on shore at another spot ; where, as soon as they had landed, an hill appeared before them, extremely high and steep in its ascent ; a little path winded up this ascent, so narrow, that two men could not go a-breast. Even this path was intrenched, and a captain's guard defended it. Such great difficulties did not abate the hopes of the general, or the ardor of the troops. Colonel Howe's light infantry scrambled up this path, by laying hold of boughs and stumps of trees, and, after a little firing, dislodged the guard, and cleared the path ; by which means, with a very little loss from a few canadians and indians in the wood, they got up, and were immediately formed. The boats, as they emptied, were immediately sent back for the second embarkation, which brigadier Townshend made. Brigadier Murray, who had been detached, with Anstruther's battalion to attack a four gun battery upon the left, was recalled by the general, who formed his little army in order of battle, having his right covered by the Louisburg grenadiers ; on the right of these were Otway's ; to the left of the grenadiers were Bragg's, Kennedy's, Lascelle's, highlanders, and Anstruther's ; the right of this body was commanded by brigadier Moncton, and the left by brigadier Murray ; his rear and left were protected by colonel Howe's light infantry. The whole army was in order of battle at break of day.

The marquis de Montcalm, when he heard that the english had ascended the hill, and were formed on the high ground at the back of the town, scarcely credited the intelligence, and still believed it to be a feint, to induce him to abandon that strong post which had been the object of all the real attempts that had been made since the beginning of the campaign.

But

But he was soon fatally undeceived. He clearly saw that the english fleet and army were in such an advantageous situation, that the upper and lower town might be attacked in concert, and that nothing but a battle could possibly save it. He accordingly determined to fight, and quitting his camp, crossed the river St. Charles, and formed his troops opposite to the english army. His center was a column, and formed by the battalions of Bearne and Guienne; his right was composed of half of the troops of the colony, the battalions of la Saure, Languedoc, and the remainder of the canadians and indians; his left consisted of the remainder of the troops of the colony, and the battalion of royal Roussillon. General Wolfe perceiving that Montcalm designed to flank his left, ordered brigadier general Townshend, with Amherst's battalion, and two battalions of the royal americans, to protect it: and also drew Webb's up, as his corps de reserve, in eight sub-divisions, with large intervals. The french lined the bushes in their front, with 1500 indians and canadians, where they also placed their best markmen, who kept up a very galling, though irregular fire upon the whole english line, who bore it with the greatest patience and good order, reserving their fire for the main body of the french, now advancing. This fire of the enemy was however checked, by the posts in Mr. Wolfe's front. The french brought up two pieces of cannon; the english were able to get up but one gun, which being admirably well served, galled their column exceedingly. The general exhorted his troops to reserve their fire; and at forty yards distance they gave it, which took place in its full extent, and made terrible havock among the french; it was supported with as much vivacity as it was begun, and the enemy every where yielded to it; but just in the moment, when the fortune of the field began to declare itself, general Wolfe (in whose life the success of all was

included) fell ; general Moncton, the next to him in command, fell immediately after, and both were conveyed out of the field ; the command now devolved on general Townshend, at a very critical time ; for, although the enemy began to fall back, and were much broken, the loss of the two generals was a very discouraging circumstance to the men, whose spirits are generally damped at the loss of their commanders ; but this was not the case here. Part of the enemy soon after made a second feint attack. Part took to some thick coppice wood, and seemed to make a stand. It was at this moment that each corps seemed in a manner to exert itself, with a view to its own peculiar character. The grenadiers, Bragg's, and Lascelle's pressed on with their bayonet's. Brigadier Murray advancing with the troops under his command, briskly completed the rout on that side ; when the highlanders, supported by Anstruther's took to their broad swords, and drove part of the enemy into the town, and part to their works at the bridge, on the river St. Charles. The action on the left and rear of the english was not so severe. The houses into which the light infantry were thrown, were well defended, being supported by colonel Howe, who, taking post with two companies behind a small coppice, and frequently falling upon the flanks of the enemy, during their attack, drove them often into heaps ; against the front of this body of the enemy, general Townshend advanced, platoons of Amherst's regiment, which totally prevented their right wing from executing their first intention. Mr. Townshend was no sooner told that he commanded, than he immediately repaired to the center of the army, and finding the pursuit had put part of the troops in disorder, he formed them as soon as possible. Scarce was this effected, than M. Bougainville, with his corps, which had retired to cape Rouge, of 2000 men, appeared in his rear. The general advanced
two

two pieces of artillery, and two battalions towards him; upon which he retired. But he could not be pursued, as his corps occupied ground which was almost impenetrable, by the woods and swamps. A great number of french officers were taken on the field of battle; and one piece of cannon; 1500 of their men fell; most of them regulars. The loss of the english did not exceed 500; but in the death of their commander they sustained a loss much more considerable. A retentive memory, a deep judgment, a comprehension amazingly quick and clear; a constitutional courage, not only uniform, but daring, perhaps sometimes even to excess, all conspired to form an accomplished hero. He possessed a strength, steadiness, and activity of mind, which no difficulties could obstruct, nor danger deter; and which enabled him when very young to signalize himself in his profession. Even so early as the battle of La-feldt, when scarce 20 years of age, he exerted himself in so masterly a manner, at a very critical juncture, that it drew the highest encomiums from the great officer, then at the head of our army. Even after the peace he spent great part of his time in forming the military character: he introduced such regularity and exactness of discipline into his corps, that, as long as the six british battalions on the plain of Minden are recorded in the annals of Europe, so long will Kingsey's stand amongst the foremost in the glory of that day. He was early in the most secret consultations for the attack of Rochfort; where he afterwards offered to make good a landing: his conduct at Louisburg, I have already given an account of. And at Quebec, having completed his character, and answered the expectations of his country, he fell at the head of his conquering troops, and, like the great Gustavus, expired in the arms of victory. There were a few circumstances attending his death, that deserve to be remembered. He first received a wound in his head;

but that he might not discourage his troops, he wrapped it up in his handkerchief, and encouraged his men to advance; soon after he received another ball in his belly; this also he dissembled, and exerted himself as before; when he received a third in his breast, under which he at last sunk, and suffered himself unwillingly to be carried behind the ranks. As he was struggling under three such wounds, he begged one who attended him, to support him to view the field; but finding, that the approach of death had dimmed his sight, he desired an officer near him, to give him an account of what he saw. He was answered, that the enemy seemed broken; repeating his question soon after, with much anxiety; he was told that the enemy was totally defeated, and that they fled in all parts. Then said he, "I am satisfied;" and immediately he expired. It is very remarkable, that the first in command on both sides should be killed, and second dangerously wounded; the french officer died of his wounds; but general Moncton happily recovered. In the marquis de Montcalm, the french lost an able and experienced general, who had supported his high reputation during the whole war in north America: his conduct in the command of that army, at the head of which he fell, was very great; he omitted nothing that human prudence could suggest, during the whole campaign; but it was his fate to be conquered by superior abilities.

General Townshend employed himself after the action in strengthening his camp beyond insult; in making a road up the precipice for his cannon; in getting up the artillery, preparing the batteries; and cutting off the enemy's communication with the country. The 17th at noon, before he had any battery erected, or could have any for two or three days, a flag of truce came out of the town, with proposals of capitulation, which the general sent back again, allowing the governor four hours to capitulate,

tulate, or no further treaty. The admiral had at this time brought up his large ships, as intending to attack the town; but the french officer returned at night, with terms of capitulation *, which the admiral and general

* Article I. M. de Ramesay demands the honours of war for his garrison; and that it shall be conducted back to the army in safety, by the shortest road, with their arms, baggage, six pieces of brass cannon, two mortars or howitzers, and twelve rounds. "The garrison of the town, composed of land forces, marines, and sailors, shall march out with their arms and baggage, drums beating, lighted matches, with two pieces of cannon, and 12 rounds; and shall be embarked as conveniently as possible, in order to be landed at the first port of France."

Art. II. That the inhabitants shall be maintained in the possession of their houses, goods, effects, and privileges.——"Granted, provided they lay down their arms."

Art. III. That the said inhabitants shall not be molested on account of their having borne arms for the defence of the town, as they were forced to it, and as it is customary for the inhabitants of the colonies of both crowns to serve as militia.——"Granted."

Art. IV. That the effects belonging to the absent officers or inhabitants, shall not be touched.——"Granted."

Art. V. That the said inhabitants shall not be removed, nor obliged to quit their houses, until their condition shall be settled by a definitive treaty between their most christian and britannic majesties.——"Ganted."

Art. VI. That the exercise of the catholic, apostolic, and roman religion shall be preserved; and that safeguards shall be granted to the houses of the clergy, and to the monasteries, particularly to the bishop of Quebec, who, animated with zeal for religion, and charity for the people of his diocese, desires to reside constantly in it, to exercise freely, and with that decency, which his character, and the sacred mysteries of the catholic, apostolic, and roman religion require, his episcopal authority in the town of Quebec, wherever he shall think it proper, until the possession of Canada shall have been decided by a treaty, between their most christian and britannic majesties. — "The free exercise of the roman religion. Safeguards granted to all religious persons, as well as to the bishop, who shall be at liberty to come and exercise freely, and with decency, the functions of his office, whenever he shall think proper, until the possession of Canada shall have been decided, between their britannic and most christian majesties."

Art. VII. That the artillery and warlike stores shall be delivered up, bonâ fide, and an inventory taken thereof.——"Granted."

Art. VIII.

general considered, agreed to, and signed at eight in the morning of the 18th. The terms were more advantageous than would have been granted, had not several circumstances concurred to induce the admiral and general to consent to them. The enemy were assembling in the rear of the english army, and, what was more formidable, the very wet and cold season,

Art. VIII. That the sick, wounded, commissaries, chaplains, physicians, surgeons, apothecaries, and other persons employed in hospitals, shall be treated agreeable to the cartel settled between their most christian and britannic majesties, on the 6th of february, 1759.—“ Granted.”

Art. IX. That before delivering up the gate, and the entrance of the town to the english forces, their general will be pleased to send some soldiers to be placed as safeguards at the churches, convents, and chief habitations.—“ Granted.”

Art. X. That the commander of the city of Quebec shall be permitted to send advice to the marquis de Vaudreuil, governor general, of the reduction of the town; as also, that this general shall be allowed to write to the french ministry, to inform them thereof.—“ Granted.”

Art. XI. That the present capitulation shall be executed according to its form and tenor, without being liable to non-execution, under pretence of reprisals, or the non-execution of any preceding capitulation.—“ Granted.”

The present treaty has been made and settled between us, and duplicates signed at the camp before Quebec, the 18th of september, 1759.

CHARLES SAUNDERS,
GEORGE TOWNSHEND,
DE RAMESAY.

Return of the killed, wounded, and missing, at the battle of Quebec, september 13, 1759.

Killed—1 general, 1 captain, 6 lieutenants, 1 ensign, 3 serjeants, 45 rank and file.—Wounded—1 brigadier general, 4 staff officers, 12 captains, 26 lieutenants, 10 ensigns, 25 serjeants, 4 drummers, 506 rank and file.—Missing—3 rank and file.

Guns, mortars, ammunition, &c. found in the city of Quebec.

Brafs ordnance,	{	6 pounders	1
		4	3
		2	2
			Iron

season, which threatened the troops with sickness, and the fleet with accidents; it had made the road so bad that general Townshend could not get a gun up for some time; add to this, the advantage of entering the town, with the walls in a defensible state, and the being able to put a garrison in it strong enough to prevent all surprise. These were sufficient considerations for granting the governor the terms that were agreed to. A garrison of 5000 men was left in the city under brigadier general Murray, with a plenty of provisions and ammunition for the winter. The fleet sailed to England soon after, fearing least the setting in of the frosts should lock them up in the river St. Lawrence.

In this glorious and successful manner was finished as difficult and severe a campaign as ever was conducted. How could it reasonably have been expected, that an army of 7000 men should take a city, extremely

Iron ordnance,	{	36 pounders	10
		24	45
		18	18
		12	13
		8	43
		6	66
		4	30
		3	7
		2	3
		13 inch	1
Brafs mortars,		8	3
Ditto howitzers,		13 inch	9
Iron mortars,	{	10	1
		8	5
		7	2
Brafs petards,			2
Shells,	{	13 inch	770
		10	150
		8	}
		6	

With a considerable quantity of powder, ball, small arms, and intrenching tools, &c. Besides 37 cannon and one mortar, found between the river St. Charles and Beauport.

strong

strong by its situation, defended by a numerous garrison, and having an army, superior to that of the besiegers, intrenched under its walls, in one of the most advantageous posts, perhaps, in the world; and when that army was to be forced to an engagement, against the inclinations of an able and cautious commander? There never possibly was an enterprise of such extreme difficulty, conducted with so much wisdom and success as this expedition. The impediments which the nature of the country, and the strength of the enemy threw in the commander's way, were such difficult obstacles, that nothing but the genius of genius Wolfe could ever have surmounted them. Those movements, so daring, judicious, and admirably well concerted, which at last drew Montcalm from his impregnable intrenchments, were hardly ever equalled: they were masterpieces in the art of war. Nor was unanimity, diligence or skill, wanting on the part of the marine: Without them, even the genius of the general could not have succeeded. It does honour to the several commanders in this expedition, both in the sea and land service, to find what a perfect harmony subsisted between them, during all the operations that were performed; wherein they used the most zealous endeavours to second each other's efforts. The joy which overspread the whole kingdom, on receiving the news of the conquest of Quebec, would have been general and complete, had there not been a mixture of grief for the loss of the general. Mr. Pitt, in a most elegant speech set off the great services performed at Quebec, in the house of commons, which had such an effect, that a magnificent monument was voted for the deceased general in Westminster abbey; the living generals and admirals received that great honour, the thanks of their country by their representatives*.

After

* A little circumstance was talked off at that time, and it deserves to be recorded, as it shews a firmness of sentiment, and justness

After Quebec surrendered, the french army under M. de Levy retired to Montreal and Trois Rivières, the only places of any consequence they had left in Canada : and in order to deprive them of subsistence in any attempt they might be induced to make towards the recovery of Quebec in the winter, that country along the river was laid waste for a considerable extent. A measure which would not have been executed, had it not been found necessary *.

In the mean time, general Amherst was prosecuting the war on lake Champlain with great diligence ; but the nature of the country all over America, makes it very difficult to carry on any military expedition. M. de Bourlemaque, the commander of the french troops against him, after having abandoned Ticonderoga and Crown Point, retired to the isle au Noix, with 3500 men, and 100 cannon ; he had four vessels on the lake, viz. la Vigilante, a schooner of 10 guns, six and four pounders, a sloop called Masque Longuy, of two brass 12 pounders, and six iron six pounders ; la Brochette, of eight guns, six and four pounders ; and l'Esturgeon of eight guns, six and four pounders,

ness of thinking, in the lower kind of people, that is rarely met with, even amongst persons of education. The mother of general Wolfe was an object marked out for pity, by great and peculiar distress ; the public wound pierced her mind with a particular affliction, who had experienced the dutiful son, the amiable domestic character, whilst the world admired the accomplished officer. Within a few months she had lost her husband ; she now lost this son, her only child. The populace of the village where she lived, unanimously agreed to admit no illuminations or firings, or any other signs of rejoicing whatsoever, near her house, least they should seem by an ill-timed triumph, to insult over her distress. There was a justness in this, and whosoever knows the people, knows that they made no small sacrifice on this occasion.

CAMPBELL.

* But I cannot here help taking notice how, similar this behaviour towards Canada, was to that which the duke de Belleisle directed marshal Contades to use towards Hanover, &c. ; both were for exactly the same reason ; but yet we did not scruple to cry out loudly against the inhumanity of the french.

besides

besides swivels mounted in all. General Amherst no sooner understood, that the french had this naval force, than he sent for captain Loring, who was building a brigantine at Ticonderoga; and having informed him of it, the captain thought the brigantine would not be of sufficient force, and concluded on building a Radeaux, to use its guns on the lake, as well as to transport them over the same.

On the 1st of september, the general learnt further, that M. de Bourlemaque had launched a new vessel, pierced for 16 Guns; he therefore again sent for captain Loring, that a second vessel might be built, if it could be done, without retarding the other, as it appeared that the enemy were trying all they could to have a superior force by water; the captain came on the 3d, and in conclusion a sloop of 16 guns was built. The utmost diligence being used in building these vessels, so that, by the 29th of september, the Radeaux, 84 feet in length, and 20 in breadth, to carry six 24 pounders, was launched. On the 10th of october, the brigantine arrived at Crown Point, carrying six 6 pounders, twelve 4 pounders, and twenty swivels, 70 seamen, and 60 marines, detached from the troops. The next day, the sloop arrived, she had four 6 pounders, twelve 4 pounders and 22 swivels, 60 seamen, and 50 marines. The same day, general Amherst, with the troops under his command, embarked in the battoes; the sloop and brigantine sailed with a fair wind, and the troops followed in four columns, with a light hoisted in the night aboard the Radeaux. The 12th, major Reid returning with some battoes of the royal highland regiment, lost the columns in the night, following the light of the brigantine, instead of that of the Radeaux, and at day break, found himself among the enemy's sloops, at les isles aux quatre vents; they fired several guns at him, and took one battoe, with a lieutenant, a serjeant, corporal, and 28 men. The general soon after
saw

saw the french sloops make all the sail they could ; but bad weather coming on, general Amherst ordered the troops into a bay on the western shore, to be covered from the wind, which begun to blow hard. The 13th, it blew a storm, and quite contrary wind. During this necessary delay, the general received advice from captain Loring, who commanded the brigantine, that on the 12th, at day break, when they judged they were 45 miles down the lake, they saw the schooner, gave chase, and unfortunately run the brigantine and sloop aground, but got them off again ; and then saw the enemy's sloops, which they had passed in the night, between them and the english army, and chaced to bring them to action, drove them into a bay on the western shore, and anchored so as to prevent their getting away. The next day they sent into the bay, in search of them, and found they had sunk two of them in five fathom water, and ran the third on ground, when the crews escaped.

The general, in the mean time, was forced to remain in the bay ; as it blew a storm the 15th all night, and the continuance of it that day, made the lake impassable for boats, the waves running like the sea in a gale of wind. The 16th it froze in the night ; and in the morning no change of weather. At last, on the 18th, the wind came to the southward ; general Amherst proceeded immediately down the lake, as far as the place where the french sloops were ; he repaired one of them, so that she sailed that day, with the brigantine and sloops : finding the wind changed to the northward, and an appearance of winter being set in, the general determined to lose no more time on the lake, by striving to get to the isle aux Noix, when, if he should arrive there, it would be too late in the season to force Bourlemaque from his intrenchments ; he therefore determined to return to Crown Point, to complete the works there, as
much

much as possible, before he distributed his troops into their winter quarters. He accordingly arrived there the 21st. He found the repairs at Ticonderoga finished; and for the better defence of Crown Point, and to make that fortress as formidable as he could, he ordered, with the advice of the engineer, three forts to be erected, which he named the Grenadier fort, Light Infantry fort, and Gage's Light Infantry fort, ordering those corps to build each their own as fast as possible. The situation of these fortresses was the best the general had seen in America, as it was no where commanded, and had all the advantages of the lake, and strength of ground, that could be desired. These several works were not completely finished by the end of november; but they were put in such a posture of defence, as to make it impossible for the enemy to be successful in any attempts which they might make on them. After this laborious campaign, the general distributed his men in such quarters, that they effectually protected the country from any inroads of the french or their indians.

In this difficult expedition, general Amherst exerted all his abilities, which before had been employed so successfully in the service of his country, to surmount a thousand obstacles, arising from the nature of the country, in which the war was carried on. The tediousness of building a naval force, superior to that of the enemy, is hardly to be conceived. And having every operation that was carried on, depend so entirely on the wind and weather, necessarily protracted the campaign excessively. If these causes had not concurred, to delay general Amherst's crossing lake Champlain, he would very probably have taken up his winter quarters at Montreal, instead of Crown Point. I cannot help observing here, how finely the general conducted this whole expedition, how much caution and prudence was used in every operation,

ration, so necessary in such a country as America. His building several vessels on the lake in so short a space of time; and directing their order of sailing in so judicious a manner; his pursuing his advantages no further than was consistent with prudence; and afterwards employing the remainder of the campaign in securing his conquests, in such an effectual manner, are so many distinguishing marks of wisdom and abilities, as the american colonies had not experienced, in any of Mr. Amherst's predecessors, in his important command.

In this glorious and successful manner, ended the campaign in America. The conquests gained there, were of such infinite importance to Great Britain, that they could not fail of raising the most perfect satisfaction throughout the whole kingdom. As the american colonies are the great sources of our trade and naval power, so these advantages, as they tend so much to secure the former, cannot but support and encrease the latter.

It was a pleasing contrast, to compare the state of north America, at the end of this campaign, with its state soon after the breaking out of the war. The french encroachments then, extended into the very heart of the english colonies; and they had formed such a connected chain of forts along the frontiers, as threatened to confine us within such bounds as they should please to dictate; but at the end of this campaign, the case was very different. The forts du Quesne, Frontinac, Niagara, Ticonderoga, and Crown Point, which before had been so formidable, were no longer in the hands of the french: whole nations of indians changed their masters, and instead of burning and destroying the english settlements, turned their arms against those of the french. Quebec, the capital of the dominions of France in America, was

in the hands of the english ; and the only remains of so many thousand miles of territory, which the french possessed, at the beginning of the war, was the tract between Trois Rivieres and lake Ontario ; and their possessions in Louisiana. To what can we attribute such a surprising change, but to the happy influence of a firm and vigorous ministry, who exerted the strength of the nation they governed, in the most natural and advantageous manner.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXIV.

Situation of the king of Prussia. The army of the empire takes Dresden, and makes great progress in Saxony. King of Prussia detaches general Wunsch into Saxony. General Wunsch defeats the army of the empire, and joins general Finck. General Haddick defeated at Corbitz. Prince Henry's fine march into Saxony. Motions of marshal Daun. General Wunsch defeats the duke d'Aremsberg. King of Prussia marches into Saxony, and joins prince Henry. General Finck surrenders at Maxen. General Diercke defeated at Meissen. Marshal Daun occupies the camp of Pirna. Remarks on his conduct. Munster capitulates. Hereditary prince of Brunswick defeats the duke of Wurtemberg at Fulda. Marches into Saxony, and joins the king of Prussia. Remarks on the campaign.

I Left the king of Prussia after the battle of Cunnernsdorf, guarding his dominions against the united efforts of the austrians and russians; and rising superior to that formidable train of difficulties, which always follow a defeat. As he had been obliged to draw the greatest part of his troops out of Saxony; the army of the empire, under the duke of Deux Ponts, took advantage of their absence, and having no army in the field to oppose it, made itself master of Hall, Naumburg, and Zeitz; and on the 3d of august, summoned general Haufs, the prussian commandant at Leipstick, to surrender that city, and he agreed to a capitulation on the fifth, the garrison marching out with the honours of war. After making themselves masters of Leipstick, they attacked Torgau, which was evacuated by the prussian garrison on the 19th, who left behind them a magazine, valued at 1,060,000 florins; and 170,000 florins in

specie in the military chest; their heavy artillery, all the hostages, prisoners of war, and deserters that were in the town; burning the suburbs before they evacuated it. The duke of Deux Ponts, next marched against Wittenburg where there was a strong garrison of prussians, who after a feeble defence, surrendered upon honourable terms; but as they might have held out much longer, their commander, general de Horn, was put under an arrest, as soon as he arrived at Berlin. From Wittenburg, the imperial army drew near to Dresden, and on the 27th of august summoned count Schmettau, the commandant, to surrender, who answered, that he would hold it out to the last extremity, for which purpose he left the new town, and retired into the old; upon this the duke of Deux Ponts gave orders for a regular attack; but before the batteries began to fire, Schmettau desired to capitulate; and the city was surrendered the 4th of september, upon honourable terms.

Such was the rapid progress which the imperial army made in Saxony; to stop it, and, if possible to remedy the blows already received, his prussian majesty detached general Wunsch from his own army, with 6000 men to march into Saxony, and endeavour to retake the towns, which the army of the empire had conquered. That general with his little army crossed the Elbe at Torgau, the 3d of september. He made some prisoners at Grossenhayn the 4th, and the same evening pushed on towards Dresden; and, at the distance of a mile from thence, met with a considerable body of hussars, croats, and hungarian infantry, that were posted at Drachenberg, and immediately attacked them. He drove the enemy from one thicket and height to another, till he came within sight of Dresden. The cannonade and fire of small arms continued the whole day, without its being possible for general Wunsch to discover, if that city was still in the possession of the prussians or not. He

was

was however of opinion, that it had capitulated; and therefore retreated that night to Grossenhayn, and next day, the 7th, to Korfedorff. While he was on his march, he received advice, that the army of the empire, under the baron de St. André, was near Torgau. The general directly detached three battalions, and all his cavalry to attack him. On the 8th, after reconnoitring, the attack was resolved. The infantry which had been left behind, arrived by degrees, and filed off, as they came up, by the town, into the gardens in the neighbourhood, where they had an hour's rest. The baron de St. André, in the mean time, cannonaded general Wunsch's army as it formed, but without any success; so that he did not answer it till his heavy artillery and some battalions and squadrons were posted on his flanks. At one o'clock in the afternoon, he entered a plain in his front, with his lines formed, and began the attack, with such success upon the enemy's left, which was posted in some vineyards, that it was broke intirely, after they had rallied four times. The baron de St. André lost his whole camp, tents, camp equipage, and seven pieces of cannon. The pursuit continued above an hour, towards Eulenburg.

After obtaining this victory, general Wunsch marched to Leipstick, which surrendered to him, on the 13th of september. Wittenburg, Zeitz, and all the other places, except Dresden, which the imperial army had made themselves masters of, were retaken. The king of Prussia to push this success still further, detached general Finck with another strong corps into Saxony. Wunsch, after scouring the whole electorate with his little army in amazing security, joined general Finck at Eulenburg. The united corps then, as it should seem with design to make itself master of Dresden, marched straight towards that city. At Nossen, Finck learnt that general Haddick with a large body

of austria had joined the imperial army; and was encamped with all his forces at Roth-Schimberg. But he retired on the approach of the prussians, who cannonaded his rear. General Finck advanced and encamped at Teutschchen Lohra, and from thence marched to Corbitz near Meissen. General Haddick having, in the mean, received some reinforcements, attacked general Finck the 21st. The cannonade in the action, which was very hot, began at nine in the morning, and lasted till dark in the evening; but notwithstanding the goodness of general Haddick's dispositions, and the great superiority of his numbers, yet he was forced to yield the field of battle to the prussians, and to retire towards Dresden. The loss of the austria in this action was considerable, but that of the prussians did not exceed 800 men killed and wounded. The victory enabled general Finck to maintain his ground in Saxony, till he was relieved by his royal highness prince Henry, who was upon his march to join him.

I before mentioned the march which the king of Prussia made, by which he got between the russian army and great Glogau, and thereby baffled their design upon that important place. This movement, which many circumstances rendered necessary, prevented the russians from taking winter quarters in his dominions; but at the same time, it unavoidably cut off all communication with the army of prince Henry.

His royal highness, seeing, that all attempts to second the operations of the king his brother, on the side of Silesia, would be ineffectual, formed another plan of co-operating with him, which was immediately to direct his march towards Saxony; a scheme as daring, as it was judicious. Nothing was more desirous than the possession of that electorate; and the prince's march must have another good effect; for it would certainly draw the attention of marshal Daun from the side of Silesia, and disable him from assist-
ing

ing the russians against Glogau. Indeed the difficulties which lay in the prince's way were very great : the whole country of Lusatia, through which this projected march lay, was in a manner overspread with the enemy. M. Daun with the main army of the austrians, was posted at Sorau, opposite to the prince's camp. Five bodies of russians occupied as many advantageous posts, between the Bober and the Neiß. General Laudohn possessed the whole country along the Spree, with several austrian corps. To get round marshal Daun, it was necessary to make a vast circuit, and to march between the austrian and russian armies, for more than 60 english miles.

After the prince had secured the passes of the mountains of Silesia, his royal highness quitted his camp of Schmotzseiffen, and made a hasty march to Sagan, which prevented marshal Daun, either from coming nearer the russian army, or detaching any more troops to reinforce it. His royal highness next turned the austrian camp at Sorau, by marching by Buntzlau and Sprottau towards Laubahn ; which not only obliged the marshal to retire as far as Gorlitz, but also general de Ville, to abandon the advantageous post of Laubahn, and join marshal Daun's army. His royal highness ordered the post of Laubahn to be immediately occupied ; and took that opportunity of detaching major general Stutterheim (who had till then, been observing general de Ville) towards Friedland and Zittau. The general took at Friedland, two lieutenant colonels, four captains, and 669 grenadiers prisoners ; brought away two pieces of cannon, and destroyed a magazine consisting of 1600 quintals of flour, 4000 bushels of oats, and 10,000 rations of bread, for want of carriages to bring it off. He then marched to Zittau ; but the austrians having taken the resolution to reinforce the garrison there, and remove the magazine from thence to Gabel, M. Stutterheim went in pursuit

of it came up with it, and burned and destroyed 5000 casks of flour, 10,000 quintals of oats, with the carriages, and a number of chests of arms. Not being able to force the town of Zittau, for want of heavy artillery, was obliged to content himself with the advantages he had gained, having lost no more in this whole expedition than 15 men killed, wounded, or deserted. However, these circumstances obliged marshal Daun to retire from Gorlitz, beyond Bautzen; whereupon, prince Henry possessed himself of the camp of Hermsdorff, near Gorlitz.

It was now the prince found, how difficult an enterprise it was, which he had undertaken; the five bodies of russians, I mentioned before, occupied the posts of Christianstadt, Guben, Pforten, Sommerfeldt, and Gassen: the austrians under general Laudohn were in possession of Tribel and Sorau; and another corps of austrians, under general Palfi, occupied Spremberg, Corbus, Peitz, and other places upon the Spree; so that, in order to get round Daun's army, it was necessary to make a very great detour between the austrian and russian armies. In spite of all these obstacles, his royal highness pursued his march. Having recalled general Zeithen from Seydenburg, and general Stutterheim from his post at Schouwald near Zittau, in order to form his rear guard, gave orders for the march of his whole army, which was accordingly begun the 23d of september, at seven o'clock at night; and in the morning of the 24th, they crossed the river Neifs, near Rothenberg, (four german miles distant from Hermsdorf) and after halting two hours, continued on to Klitten, where the van-guard arrived about eleven that night, and the rear at eight the next morning.

On the 25th in the morning, the prince's van-guard marched from Klitten towards Hoyerfwerda; major general Lentulus having been sent before to take possession of it. That general having advanced within
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half a german mile of Hoyerfwerda, had the good fortune to discover, that the austrian general Vehla, with a corps of 4 or 5000 austrians, chiefly irregulars, was encamped behind the town, in perfect security; notice of this was immediately sent to his royal highness, who ordered Vehla to be attacked, and soon drove him from the town, and his camp to the neighbouring woods, where he made a very brave defence, and was himself taken prisoner in the rear of his corps, which was soon afterwards entirely dispersed. After halting two days at Hoyerfwerda, the prussians marched the 28th in the morning to Ruland, and the next day to Elsterwerda.

On the 1st of october, the prince received advice that marshal Daun had thrown 3 bridges over the Elbe at Dresden, he therefore detached general Ozttritz to cross that river, with five battalions, and two regiments of dragoons, at Torgau, and approach general Finck's corps, in case of a probability of its being attacked. His royal highness marched himself, and arrived at Torgau the 2d, where he also crossed the Elbe, and proceeded on to Belgern, and there joined general Finck on the 4th. In this manner the miserable country Saxony, was again made the grand theatre of war, and was now to suffer all its hardships and distresses once more. Since the beginning of the war, there never has been made a more difficult, or a finer conducted march, than this of prince Henry. To lead an army over so extensive a tract of country, every where occupied by the enemy, in such a rapid manner, equally displays the genius of the commander, and the goodness of the prussian troops.

Soon after his royal highness arrived in Saxony, his prussian majesty received advice of another piece of good news, the russians began to retreat from the neighbourhood of the king's camp, and by their march seemed to have a design on Breslaw; but they afterwards

afterwards turned off towards Poland, and left the prussian dominions free for the remainder of that campaign.

Prince Henry finding it necessary to leave his strong camp at Strachla, near Belgern, marched on the 16th of october to Torgau, and posted himself in a well placed and strong camp, the left extending itself to the town, with a large morass before part of it, the left flank of it covered by the Elbe, as the right was by a wood, at two english miles distance from the town. Marshal Daun posted himself at Belgern, and detached a large corps to his left, to cut off the prince's communication with Leipstick.

Prince Henry, to prevent the marshal from executing this scheme, detached general Rebentish to Duben, as well to observe his motions towards Leipstick, as to watch the rear of his own camp, in case the enemy should attempt to get behind, and cut off his communication with Wittenburg. On the 25th, the prince received intelligence, that the austrians had pushed a strong party through the woods, behind his right, and got possession of Voglesang, some other villages, and the small town of Dommitsch, by which means, his camp was entirely surrounded, having the Elbe on the left, and the austrian posts on the other three sides at Belgern, Schuldau, Rochwitz, and Dommitsch, at which last place, the duke d'Artemberg commanded a body of about 16,000 men. His royal highness, thereupon ordered general Finck's corps, which was in the rear of his camp, to march towards Voglesang, from whence the austrians were drove, and general Finck remained in possession of the post. The next day the prince (who found it impracticable to dislodge the enemy from Dommitsch, without great loss of men) detached general Wunsch with six battalions and some cavalry across the Elbe at Wittenburg, where he was to be joined by general Rebentish's corps, which had retired to that place from

from Duben, upon the approach of the austrians. On the 29th, the duke d'Aremberg decamped from Dommitsch, in order to occupy the heights near Pretsch; upon perceiving the van of general Wunsch's corps, which was marching that way, he immediately formed into order of battle. General Wunsch (whose whole force joined to that of general Rebentish, did not exceed 5000 men) posted himself with some dragoons and hussars, on two rising grounds, and waited till the arrival of his infantry with the artillery. He then began to cannonade the austrian corps, which never attacked, or attempted to dislodge him; but it suffered severely in the action; 1200 prisoners were taken, amongst whom was lieutenant general Gemmingen; they likewise lost several pieces of cannon, a great part of their tents, and a very large quantity of baggage. Marshal Daun, finding by the prince's vigorous operations, that he should not be able to make any progress against him, decamped on the 4th of november in the most private manner, directing his march towards Strehla. As soon as the prince perceived it, he detached lieutenant general Ziethen after him, to harass his rear, who made some prisoners. General Wunsch also marched from Duben, and took possession of Eulenburg, which the austrian detachment abandoned in the night of the 3d, and general Warffelsleben occupied Belgern on the 4th.

To enable prince Henry to push these advantages as far as possible, his prussian majesty detached general Hulsen from his own army, with 18 battalions and 30 squadrons, the end of october, across Lusatia, to reinforce his royal highness. Hulsen arrived at Sprenberg, by the way of Moska, on the 3d of november, with his van-guard at Hoyerwerda; and joined the prince's army the 8th, at Lommatzsch; having crossed the Elbe on a bridge of boats. The king finding that the russians continued to retreat into Poland, marched at the head of near 20,000 men, from his camp in Silesia,

Silesia, on the 7th of november, leaving general Itzenplitz, with a part of his army, to keep the russians from availing themselves of his absence, and joined prince Henry at Meissen the 12th, who had before under his command 44,000 men, so that his prussian majesty, notwithstanding the losses he had met with in this campaign, found himself at the head of a gallant army of above 60,000 men, in high spirits, and ready to execute the most desperate of his orders, notwithstanding the advanced season, and the great extremity of the cold. Marshal Daun, it is true, was superior to him, both in numbers and situation. He had it in his power at any time, to take possession of the famous camp at Pirna, where it was impossible to attack him. But several circumstances made this post as dangerous in some respects, as it was desirable in others; the freezing of the Elbe, and the snow on the mountains, which divided Bohemia from Saxony, made it very difficult to procure the necessary provisions and forage. Add to this, the being continually molested by the prussian parties, as there was great reason to suppose he would.

Had the king of Prussia, in this situation, contented himself with only pursuing the advantages he had already gained, by joining his forces so successfully, marshal Daun would in all probability have abandoned Dresden, and retired into Bohemia. But that monarch imagining, that he might oblige the marshal to come to a battle, by possessing himself of some strong posts, which command the passes that lead into Bohemia, as the austrians retreat into that kingdom, would then, in a manner, be cut off, determined to attempt executing this plan.

His majesty, by a movement he made, obliged marshal Daun to retreat as far as Plauen; and advanced his own army to Kesseldorf; from whence he detached general Finck, with 19 battalions and 35 squadrons, to take possession of the defiles of Maxen and

and Ottendorf, through which alone it seemed possible for the austrians to communicate with Bohemia. General Finck accordingly turned the left flank of the austrian army, and posted himself at Maxen, placing on a hill to the right of a village, three battalions, and a battery of ten pieces of cannon. In the mean time, marshal Daun, who was aware of the king's design, had occupied all the eminences about this rough and dangerous place, and made his dispositions for attacking the prussians on the 20th. General Finck had got too far amongst the defiles without having secured a retreat, when he saw a large body of austrians moving to attack him, he made a very brisk fire from his artillery, but with little effect, on account of the elevation. The austrian cannon played with more success, and protected their grenadiers, who marched against the prussian left, and attacked it with great intrepidity, making themselves masters of the battery of ten pieces of cannon. General Finck made during the whole day the most intrepid efforts to disengage his army from the enemy, but he was defeated in every attempt, with a considerable loss of men, and great part of his artillery. The engagement lasted with great fury till night; during which, marshal Daun took every precaution possible to entangle the prussians, by guarding with double strength and vigilance, every avenue through which it was possible for them to escape. When morning appeared, Finck saw all the hills covered upon every side with great bodies of austrians, and every defile presented a wall of bayonets, through which it was impossible to penetrate. The prussian troops almost exhausted with the preceding day's fighting, wherein they had used almost all their ammunition, seeing so formidable an enemy on all sides, and without the least prospect of relief, lost all spirit. In this condition, general Finck thought it would be needless to throw away the lives of so many
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brave men, to so little purpose, in any more attacks upon an invincible enemy ; he therefore, notwithstanding the known severity of his master, and the stain which he was sensible the world would fix on his character, came to a resolution of demanding a capitulation. Marshal Daun granted it in one article, whereby general Finck, and nine other prussian generals were received prisoners of war, with 19 battalions and 35 squadrons, composing near 20,000 men, by the austrian account ; above 12,000 by the prussian confession ; 64 pieces of cannon, 50 flags, and 25 standards were also taken on this occasion.

With the most trifling loss did marshal Daun execute this service. It was without exception the most severe blow, which the prussians had felt since the beginning of the war ; it happened in the most critical time, and brought a great disreputation on their arms, from the manner in which this numerous corps was taken : so that we cannot be surpris'd, that the friends of the house of Austria should have exulted so much, especially as the stroke which his prussian majesty now received, was of much worse consequences to his cause, than the capture of the saxon army, in the year 1756, was to that of his enemies.

The king had not recovered this stroke before he received another severe one. General Dierke had been posted on the right bank of the Elbe, occupying a strong camp opposite to Meissen, with seven battalions of infantry and a thousand horse. This post was so advantageous, that he thought his retreat to Meissen absolutely secure, especially as he had been assured by the pontoneers, that they could lay a bridge over the Elbe in a few hours, (for they had been obliged during the hard frost, to withdraw the bridge of boats they had over that river, and the wooden bridge at Meissen had been broken down by the austrians) but when they attempted to lay a bridge of pontons, it was found impracticable, because of the
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quantity of ice, floating in the river. General Diercke was therefore reduced to the necessity of making use of boats, to carry over his cavalry, and part of his infantry, on the 3d of december, which took up a great deal of time, whilst he himself with three or four battalions formed the rear guard. The next day, in the morning, he was attacked by the austrians, and after a very brave defence, the battalions that formed the rear guard, were either killed or made prisoners, to the number of near 3000 men. The general himself was wounded, and a prisoner.

Marshal Daun, by his inactivity, after these two blows, so fatal to the prussian cause, surprised all Europe; a few vigorous efforts, were now only wanting to crush the king of Prussia. But Daun, instead of advancing, retired, as if he had been defeated, and took refuge in the impregnable camp of Pirna, having secured all the defiles in such a manner, that his prussian majesty, now too weak to send out any great detachment, could not cut off his communication with Bohemia. Surely marshal Daun's measures after these two defeats were by far too feeble. He had now the fairest opportunity which had presented itself since the beginning of the war, of totally ruining his enemy, before the defeat at Maxen he had a superiority of above 20,000 men, and consequently after it, by his own account, of 40,000, if he could not improve this success, with such a vastly superior force, how could he expect to be able to do it, when he had given his enemy time to recruit his shattered army. This was a critical moment, which count Daun should have seized, and for once have carried on the war offensively; and have attacked the king, while his army was so diminished in its numbers, and the remainder of it dispirited under its late loss? Had marshal Daun, even after he took possession of the camp at Pirna, where it was impossible he should be attacked, sent out some very strong detachments,

detachments, to push the war in Silesia, and even in Brandenburg itself, the king of Prussia would have found it impracticable to defend so many parts of his dominions. The cold, which was then indeed very severe, would not have prevented some strong corps being detached. In short, it was impossible to unravel this part of Daun's conduct; for, although he was so well known to be an excessive cautious commander, yet, under such strong circumstances as these of which I have been speaking, we must suppose he would throw something into the hands of fortune, who had so lately befriended him, in such a signal manner. But if his genius, which leads him so directly to defensive operations, would not permit him to hazard a battle, still there are a thousand different methods, which an able commander knows how to use, to follow such a blow as his prussian majesty had just received, and reap from it its greatest consequences.

In the mean time, while the two armies in Saxony carried on the campaign, through all the rigor of the severest winter, for many years felt in Europe; duke Ferdinand did the same, but with much better success than his prussian majesty. Indeed the french army having received considerable reinforcements, and the obstinate defence of the city of Munster, together with the great extremity of the cold had prevented his serene highness from forcing his enemy to a decisive action. At length, after a tedious siege and blockade, Munster capitulated, whereby general Inhoff with the corps under his command, was enabled to join the army under duke Ferdinand.

Soon after this, the hereditary prince of Brunswick, whose activity, I have so often had occasion to celebrate, performed a piece of service of much more prejudice to the french, than even the loss of Munster. The duke of Wurtemberg had this year renewed his treaty of subsidy with France, and having recruited,
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and augmented his troops, to the number of near 10,000 men, was posted at Fulda, a great way to the right of the french army ; as there were no great bodies of troops posted near Fulda to preserve a free communication between that town and the rest of their army, the prince formed a design of attacking the duke of Wurtemberg.

On the 28th of november, he, with prince Charles of Bevern, taking two regiments of dragoons, two of cavalry, four battalions of foot, two regiments of grenadiers, 100 hunters, and two squadrons of hussars, and disengaging them from their baggage, marched the same day to Kisdorff, and Heimershausen, and the following, being the 29th, seperating into two corps, the hereditary prince with one, lay that night at Angersbach, and prince Charles with the other at Lauterbach. At one o'clock in the morning of the 30th, the whole corps was again put in motion, and marched directly towards Fulda. As the enemy did not in the least expect this visit, no troops were met on the road. At a little distance from Fulda, having ordered the whole corps to be drawn together, behind the nearest height, and the hussars to march forward, his serene highness went to reconnoitre, almost to the gates of the town. The country about Fulda forms a plain of tolerable even ground, the right of which is watered by a river of the same name ; the fields on this side being divided by a long hollow way. On one side of it the Wurtemberg troops had ranged themselves, in small bodies, on separate spots of ground, very irregularly posted. The duke was himself in the town, and had ordered a feu de joye for that day ; his troops were all in their best cloaths ; and he had invited all the ladies in the town to his table, and to a ball which he intended to have given ; but the hereditary prince overturned all his measures, both of war and diversion. His highness having reconnoitred their situation, at-

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tacked them unawares in their front and flank, and drove them into the town; they shut the gates after them, but they were soon forced open with the cannon, and the hereditary prince pursued them through it. On the other side of the town, they were met by prince Charles of Bevern, who had made a compass about the place, and attacked them vigorously, as soon as they had got out of it; three battalions and a regiment had formed again in order of battle, as if with an intention of defending themselves; but they were instantly attacked, and all either cut in pieces, or taken prisoners, together with all their officers, two pieces of cannon, two pair of colours, and their baggage. The duke himself, with the rest of his troops, made a shift to escape, under cover of the defence made by those battalions. The prince took above 1000 prisoners; and having rested his troops a day at Fulda, retired to the army of the allies, having disabled the Wurtemburghers from performing any thing considerable.

This stroke had more good consequences than one, as it not only prevented the french from forming a communication with the army of the empire, for the mutual extension and security of their winter quarters, as they did the last campaign; but it also was in part the occasion of their abandoning their camp at Gieffen, which they did on the 5th of december, and fell back towards Butzbach, on the direct road to Franckfort, leaving a garrison of 2000 men in Gieffen.

Duke Ferdinand finding the season grown too severe to push further the advantages he had gained over the french, and that their army was going into winter quarters, determined to send a reinforcement to the king of Prussia. He considered the distressed condition of that monarch's affairs, which were at so low a pitch, and his army so weak, that he had no hopes of dislodging marshal Daun, or preventing him from taking his winter quarters in Saxony. His se-
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rene highness accordingly placed the hereditary prince at the head of 12,000 men, and detached him to succour his prussian majesty. They marched from Korfidorff, the 11th of december, and in the depth of so severe a winter, without losing a man by sickness or desertion, in 15 days marched near 300 miles, and joined the king of Prussia at Freyburg in Saxony. For a moment this junction raised the spirits of the prussians ; but it did little service to their cause. Marshal Daun, still at the head of a much superior army, intrenched in an inaccessible camp, was too cautious to give the king the least opportunity of so much as making an attempt. His majesty endeavoured to draw him to a battle, but all his efforts were in vain ; so that after one of the longest, most laborious, and bloody campaigns, that ever was conducted, the king of Prussia distributed his troops into winter quarters.

In the mean time, the duke of Broglio, who having obtained the marshal's staff, now commanded the french army, determined to take advantage of the hereditary prince's absence to make an attack upon duke Ferdinand's posts. On the 24th, he attempted it by surprise ; but found so warm a reception, and every post so well guarded, that he retired to his former quarters, without being able to effect any thing.

In this glorious and successful manner, did prince Ferdinand finish the campaign. The superiority of his genius appeared very evidently in its conclusion : there hardly ever being a bolder action than the detaching 12,000 men, so great a distance, from an army so much inferior to its enemy ; nor did the abilities of the hereditary prince shine less conspicuously, in conducting that rapid march, during such severe weather. This action in the face of one superior army, and the taking Munster in the presence of another, particularly distinguishes the generalship of duke Ferdinand.

This was the most fatal campaign to the king of Prussia, of any he had made since the beginning of the war. All Europe was with great reason surprised, to see the immense efforts he made against such formidable enemies, even after having sustained four capital defeats in one campaign. Before this war, the power of the house of Brandenburg was supposed to be merely artificial; under any other sovereign, that supposition would perhaps have been true; but the resources which his prussian majesty found in his own genius, made up for those that are wanting in his dominions. Every one knows, that his territories, Silesia excepted, are some of the most barren tracts of country in Germany. And yet, this monarch was able for three years to carry on a most successful and glorious war, against four of the most powerful states in Europe; and, even in the fourth campaign, though not victorious, yet he displayed his vast abilities, in finding resources, more than in any of the former; for, although he lost four battles in that campaign, yet Dresden was the only fruit that his enemies gained by as many victories.

C H A P. XXV.

Preparations at Vannes and Brest for an invasion. Sir Edward Hawke blocks up the port of Brest. He is driven from his station. The french fleet comes out of Brest. Battle of Belleisle. French fleet defeated. War in the East-indies. Surat surrenders to captain Maitland. French attempt to dethrone the nabob of Bengal. Are defeated by colonel Clive. Major Ford takes Masulipatam. Battle at sea, between Pocock and d'Aché. The french defeated. Affairs in Europe. Sad state of France. Kings of Great Britain and Prussia offer to hold a congress for peace. Refused by the other belligerent powers. Reflections on the events of the year 1759,

I Before mentioned the preparations which the court of France had made for some time, in all their ports, to invade Great Britain. The battle of cape Lagos checked them; but they were far from being discontinued. The defeat which the french army in Germany met with at Minden, ruined their schemes of making a good peace, by means of the possession of Hanover; they then found that their only hope depended on the success of the invasion, they had planned against England; and therefore redoubled their efforts to get their squadron at Brest in all possible forwardness. The forces were to be transported from Vannes. The winter did not in the least delay these preparations; it was that season wherein the french court hoped to be able to put their design in execution; as they thought the english fleet, which had been cruising some time before the harbour of Brest, would then be obliged to take refuge in its

own ports ; and leave the sea open to the french fleet to come out, and land their forces in England.

The french were not wholly disappointed in their expectations ; for sir Edward Hawke was forced from his station by a violent storm, and driven into Torbay. The french admiral, Conflans, took immediate advantage of his absence, and put to sea the 14th of november. This was an event which alarmed the whole british nation ; the consequences of the whole war, were put at once to the stake ; and this was the critical moment, that was to determine the fate of the two kingdoms : if the french were able to execute their plan ; all the success which had attended the arms of Britain, since the beginning of the war, would be entirely overthrown. But though the nation was alarmed, yet it was far from being dejected ; their fear only produced the most cool and regular methods of defence, no disturbance was heard of, and every one was emulous to distinguish himself in the service of his country. Orders were issued for guarding all such parts of the coast of England, as were most likely for the french to attempt to make a descent on ; for which purpose, troops were every where put in motion ; and all the ships of war in harbour were ordered out.

One remarkable instance of gallant behaviour at this period, is worthy to be recorded. Admiral Saunders came into port from his Quebec expedition, just after sir Edward Hawke had sailed. Neither the tedious length of his late voyage, the fatigues he had undergone in so severe a campaign, nor the want of the necessary orders, could deter him from putting to sea with ten ships, to partake the honour and the danger of the ensuing engagement ; he was not however so fortunate as to join the english fleet time enough for it.

As sir Edward concluded, that the first rendezvous of the french fleet would be at Quiberon bay, the instant

stant he received intelligence of their having sailed, he left Torbay the 14th and (the same day as the french came out of Brest) directed his course thither, with a prest sail. At first the wind blew hard, and being contrary, drove him considerably to the westward. But on the 18th and 19th, though variable, it proved more favourable; so that on the 20th, at 8 o'clock in the morning, one of his frigates made the signal for an enemy's fleet in view. But, although the admiral was now so happy as to have the enemy in sight, yet there was an infinity of dangers to encounter, even before he could possibly engage them. The whole coast is sown very thick with sands and rocks, the english pilots were not well acquainted with it, and the wind blew little less than a violent storm; the sea running mountain high: the enemy's squadron was very strong, and on their own coast, with which they were perfectly acquainted. These dreadful difficulties only animated the english admiral; in circumstances less dangerous, some commanders would have avoided an engagement; but sir Edward Hawke knowing that this was the most critical moment of the whole war, determined to venture every thing in the service of his country: he was in one of the finest ships in the world, and commanded the flower of the british navy*, he was seconded by many of the bravest

* English fleet.

Ships.	Guns.	Men.	Commanders.
Royal George	100	880	{ Sir Edward Hawke, Captain Campbell.
Union	90	770	{ Sir Charles Hardy, Captain Evans.
Duke	90	750	{ Captain Graves,
Namure	90	730	{ Captain Buckle,
Mars	74	600	{ James Young, esq. commodore.
Warsprite	74	600	{ Sir John Bentley,
Hercules	74	600	{ Captain Fortescue,
H h 4			Torbay

bravest and most experienced officers in the service, and every man carried in his breast the remembrance of those glorious successes, which had so particularly distinguished the british arms during the war. When the french fleet was first discovered, it was bearing to the northward, between the island of Belleisle, and the main land of France.

The admiral observing, that on his first discovering them, they made off, threw out the signal for the seven ships nearest them to chace, and draw into a line of battle a-head of him, and endeavour to stop them, till the rest of the Squadron should come up, who

Ships.	Guns.	Men.	Commanders.
Torbay	74	600	Hon. capt. Keppel,
Magnanime	74	700	Right hon. lord Howe,
Resolution	74	600	Captain Speke,
Hero	74	600	Hon. capt. Edgcombe,
Swiftsure	70	520	Sir Thomas Stanhope,
Dorsetshire	70	528	Captain Denis,
Burford	70	520	Captain Gambier,
Chichester	70	520	Captain Willet,
Temple	70	520	Captain W. Shirley,
Revenge	64	480	Captain Storr,
Essex	64	480	Captain Obrien,
Kingston	60	400	Captain Shirley,
Intrepid	60	420	Captain Maplesden,
Montague	60	420	Captain Rowley,
Dunkirk	60	420	Captain Digby,
Defiance	60	420	Captain Baird,
Rocheſter	50	350	Captain Duff,
Portland	50	350	Captain Arbuthnot,
Faulkland	50	350	Captain Drake,
Chatham	50	350	Captain Lockart,
Minerva	32	220	Captain Hood,
Venus	36	240	Captain Harrison,
Vengeance	28	200	Captain Nightingale,
Coventry	28	200	Captain Barſlem,
Maidſtone	28	200	Captain Diggs,
Sapphire	32	220	Captain Strachan,
	2030	15900	

French

who were also to form as they chased, that no time might be lost in the pursuit. M. Conflans had it in his power, either to fly, or stand and fight it out; but, through cowardice or misconduct he did neither perfectly; for some time he appeared as if he meant to fight; but after giving the british ships time to come near him, when it was too late, he crowded all the sail he could carry; and at the same time, he shewed an attention to keep all his squadron together.

French fleet.

Ships.	Guns.	Men.	Commanders.
Le Soliel Royal	80	1200	{ M. Conflans, admiral.
Le Tonnant	80	1000	{ M. Beaufremont, vice-admiral.
Le Formidable	80	1000	{ M. de St. André de Verger, rear-admiral.
Le Orient	80	1000	{ M. Gubriant, chef d'Escadre.
Le Intrepide	74	815	
Le Glorieux	74	815	
Le Thesée	74	815	
Le Heros	74	815	
Le Robuste	74	815	
Le Magnifique	74	815	
Le Juste	70	800	
Le Superbe	70	800	
Le Dauphin	70	800	
Le Dragon	64	750	
Le Northumb.	64	750	
Le Sphinx	64	750	
Le Solitaire	64	750	
Le Brillant	64	750	
Le Eveillé	64	750	
Le Bizarre	64	750	
Le Inflexible	64	750	
Le Hebe	40		
Le Vestale	34		
Le Aigrette	36		
Le Calypso	16		
	<hr/> 1612	<hr/> 16740	

The

The action began with great fury, about half an hour after two. The english admiral ordered his ship to reserve her fire, to pass by all the others, and to be laid along-side of the Soliel Royal, the best ship in the french navy. The master remonstrated on the great danger of the coast. Hawke answered, " You have done your duty in this remonstrance ; " now obey my orders, and lay me along-side of the " french admiral." The captain of the Superbe, a french man of war of 70 guns, in a gallant and generous manner put himself between them. Hawke was obliged to bestow here, the fire he had reserved for a greater occasion, and at one broadside sunk her to the bottom. The crew of the Royal George gave a cheer, but it was a faint one ; the honest sailors were touched at the miserable fate of 800 poor creatures, out of which number, only 20 were saved in some pieces of the wreck. Sir Edward having made this dreadful beginning, continued bearing down on M. Conflans ; before he could engage him, he received the fire of six other ships ; at last Conflans gave him his broadside ; it was returned with great spirit, and after two or three exchanges the french admiral sheered off. Sir Edward then received the fire of their vice-admiral ; but he soon followed the example of his superior. Another and another did the same, but all were equally unable to stand against the steady, but dreadful fire of the Royal George. The Formidable, in which was the french rear-admiral, was the only ship in the french fleet that fought fairly ; captain Speke of the Resolution, did not force her to strike till towards the dusk of the evening. The Torbay was singly engaged with the Thesee ; but at the second broadside sent that unfortunate ship to the bottom. About five the Heros struck, and came to an anchor ; but it blowing hard, no boat could be sent on board.

Night

Night saved the remainder of the french fleet; the english admiral being on a part of the coast, among islands and shoals, of which they were totally ignorant, the greatest part of the squadron without a pilot, and the wind blowing hard upon the lee shore, made the signal to anchor. Every thing concurred to make the night which succeeded the action, completely dreadful. A violent storm blew all night long. It was a pitchy darkness; a dangerous coast surrounded them on all sides. A continual firing of distress guns was heard, without knowing whether they came from friend or enemy, and on account of the badness of the coast, and the darkness of the night, the english sailors were equally unable to venture to their assistance.

When the morning of the 21st came, they found that the french admiral and the *Heros*, which under cover of the night had anchored among the english ships, cut and run ashore to the westward of Crozie. On the latter's moving, sir Edward made the *Essex's* signal to slip and pursue her; but she unfortunately got upon some rocks, called the Four, and both she and the *Resolution* were irrecoverably lost, notwithstanding all the assistance the weather would permit, was sent them. The enemy it was found, had seven ships of the line at anchor, between Penris Point and the river Villaine; on discovering them, the english admiral made the signal to weigh, in order to work up and attack them; but it blowed so hard from the N. W. that instead of daring to cast the squadron loose, he was obliged to strike top-gallant masts. Most of these ships appeared to be on ground at low water; but on the flood, by lightening them, and the advantage of the wind under the land, they got into the river Villaine.

The weather being moderate on the 22d, the admiral sent the *Portland*, *Chatham*, and *Vengeance* to destroy the *Soliel Royal* and *Heros*. The french, on the approach of the english set the first on fire, and soon after the latter met the same fate from their enemies.

enemies. Sir Edward employed the 23d in reconnoitring the entrance of the river Villaine, which is very narrow, and only twelve feet water on the bar, he discovered seven or eight line of battle ships about half a mile within, quite light, and two large frigates moored a-cross, to defend the mouth of the river, the latter only having guns. He fitted out 12 long boats to attempt burning them; but the weather being bad, and the wind contrary, it was found impracticable. The admiral then detached capt. Young to Quiberon bay, with five ships to watch the enemy's straggling ships, and made up a flying squadron to scour the coast to the isle of Aix. Sir Edward concludes his account of this action with these words:

“ In attacking a flying enemy, it was impossible in
 “ the space of a short winter's day, that all our ships
 “ should be able to get into action, or all those of the
 “ enemy brought to it. The commanders and com-
 “ panies of such as did not come up with the rear
 “ of the french on the 20th, behaved with the great-
 “ est intrepidity, and gave the strongest proofs of a
 “ true british spirit. In the same manner I am satis-
 “ fied, those captains would have acquitted them-
 “ selves, whose bad going ships, or the distance they
 “ were at in the mooring, prevented from getting
 “ up. Our loss by the enemy is not considerable;
 “ for in the ships that are now with me, I find only
 “ one lieutenant, and 39 seamen and marines killed,
 “ and about 202 wounded. When I consider the
 “ season of the year, the hard gales on the day of
 “ action, a flying enemy, the shortness of the day,
 “ and the coasts we are on, I can boldly affirm, that
 “ all that could possible be done, has been done. As
 “ to the loss we have sustained, let it be placed to the
 “ account of the necessity I was under of running
 “ all risks to break this strong force of the enemy.
 “ Had we had but two hours more day-light, the
 “ whole had been totally destroyed or taken; for
 “ we

“ we were almost up with their van, when night overtook us.”

In this glorious and successful manner was concluded this remarkable action, in which the french had four capital ships destroyed, one taken, and the whole of their formidable navy, in which consisted the last hope of their marine, shattered, disarmed, and dispersed. The invasion, which they had been so long at work to effect, and which was to repair their losses in every part of the world, was now entirely dissipated; with their last hope, the spirit of the people sunk, and the credit of their arms was broken along with their forces. On the contrary, the behaviour of the english admiral, captains, and seamen was such, as reflected the greatest honour on their country; and added as much to the glory, and to the arms of Britain as to its safety. In short, those who were engaged, and those who were not so fortunate, gave proofs that they were equally ardent in the service of their country. This engagement, the surrender of the prussian troops at Maxen, and the taking of Munster, happened on the same day, the 20th of november.

The success of the english was equally great in the East-indies. In that country, the two nations had been more upon an equality than any where else, since the commencement of the war; but yet the advantage was on the side of the english. In the beginning of february, captain Richard Maitland of the royal regiment of artillery, was ordered by the governor and council of Bombay, to undertake an expedition against the city and castle of Surat. He embarked with 850 artillery and infantry, and 1500 seapoys, the 9th of february, and in eight days landed them safe at a place called Dentilowry, distant from Surat about nine miles, where he encamped for the refreshment of his troops three or four days. Being possessed of a proper space of ground, he immediately raised a battery of two 24 pounders and a mortar, which played very briskly against the wall for three days.

days. Finding this method of attack tedious, he, with the advice of a council of war, ordered his little fleet to warp up the river in the night, and anchor in a line of battle, opposite one of the strongest fortified posts they had got, called the Bundar, which being executed, a general attack begun from the vessels and battery at the appointed time, and the troops being safely landed, soon became masters of that post, and the outer town. Having succeeded thus far, the captain bombarded the castle and town as soon as possible, with such briskness, that it surrendered to him after little or no opposition. This conquest was of vast importance to the english East-india company, 'Surat being one of the richest cities in India, carrying on a flourishing and extensive trade.

In the mean time, colonel Clive, who had before so often distinguished himself in this country, continued to command success against the french. That nation had set up a person in opposition to the nabob, whom the colonel had placed upon the throne of Bengal, and having assisted him with men and money, he laid siege to Patua. Clive being informed of the attempt, marched from Calcutta with great expedition, and obliged the pretender to retire with the greatest precipitation. He then detached major Brereton, with some troops to harass the rear of general Lally's army, which had not long before raised the siege of Madrafs. This and some other detachments soon after joined the english army, about thirty miles from Madrafs; many endeavours were use to bring Mr. Lally to an engagement, who, though superior in number declined it. Major Brereton marched soon after to Vandewash, a country fort about 40 miles from Pondicherry, garrisoned by the french, hoping thereby to draw the enemy from their strong camp. M. Lally, having returned to Pondicherry, major general Soupire commanded the french army, he gave into the design of major Brereton, and followed him into the neighbourhood of Vandewash.

The

The english army directly marched against him, drawing up in order of battle, in sight of the french. But Soupire intrenched himself so strongly, it was impossible to attack him. Major Brereton finding an action impracticable, made a forced march the 16th of april, to Conjeveram, where the enemy had 700 seapoys; after a short cannonade, the place was stormed, and many of the garrison made prisoners of war. The french army afterwards returned to Arcot, and having no pay, and but bad provisions, it occasioned great discontent and desertion. On the 20th of june, general Lally joined his army at Arcot, and moved towards Conjeveram, where the two armies cannonaded each other for four days; but the french general finding his men continued to desert, retreated in the night to Pondicherry. The english army remained cantoned in Conjeveram, till the 1st of august, when part of it, under major Monson, advanced to the attack of Couvereepaut, which after two days he took, granting the french garrison a capitulation. At the same time, major Caniland marched with 200 europeans, and some black troops, to dislodge the enemy from Tirupoty; which he did with the loss of a few seapoys. To conclude this train of successes, major Ford made himself master of Massulipatam, taking it by storm, where he killed about 200, and took prisoners about 300 french. The operations in the remainder of the year by land, were not of very great importance; the only action of any consequence was, an attack made by major Brereton, on the village of Vandewash. He marched the 24th of september, with about 400 europeans, 7000 seapoys, 14 pieces of artillery, 70 european and 300 black horse. The french, to the number of about 1000, were intrenched under a fort, which mounted 20 pieces of cannon. Notwithstanding this strength, major Brereton attacked them on the 30th, in three different places, and carried the village. But in the night, the pioneers mistaking

taking his orders, neglected to throw up an intrenchment to cover the troops, which when the french perceived, they returned to the charge with great fury, and being seconded by the fire of the fort, drove the english out again, with the loss of 310 men killed, and wounded, so that they were obliged to retreat directly to Conjeveram. Notwithstanding this repulse, the english East-india company found themselves on the whole infinitely successful. They commanded in Bengal a whole kingdom, and were in possession of all its trade, which produced them immense riches. From Bengal, up the coast as far as Madrafs, was likewise at their discretion, an extent of 800 miles, and the best part of the coast for trade and wealth. It was in this part of it that the french subsisted after they had lost their possession in Bengal; but in the loss of Massulipatam they were merely confined to Pondicherry, Carakat, and some few places to the southward.

By sea the two fleets were more upon an equality in point of force; though that of the french under M. d'Aché was superior to admiral Pocock: nevertheless, the latter sailed to the southward in quest of d'Aché, on the 1st of september; the very next day he discovered the enemy's fleet, but was not able to bring on an action. Mr. Pocock continued eight days using all his endeavours to bring the french admiral to an engagement. At last, on the 10th he effected it, when both admirals made the signal for battle. The english fleet consisted of nine sail of the line, but three of them were only 50 gun ships. The french consisted of eleven sail of the line of battle ships. The english line carried 536 guns, and 4035 men; the french 728 guns, and 6400 men. As soon as the signal was out, both squadrons began to cannonade each other with great fury, and continued hotly engaged for two hours, when the french rear began to give way; their center very soon after did the same, their van following; the

the whole french squadron bore away with all the sail they could make.

Many of the english ships being greatly disabled in their yards and rigging, admiral Pocock was in no condition to pursue them ; but having repaired the several damages of his ships, he once more sailed in quest of the enemy, and discovered them in Pondicherry road ; d'Aché declined coming to a second engagement, stretching away to the southward. Mr. Pocock determined, with the advice of the rear admiral and captains, to return to Madras, as the condition of the fleet would not permit him to follow the enemy to the southward. The loss in the engagement was considerable on both sides, but fell heaviest on the french, who had 1500 men killed and wounded, as reported by a deserter ; the english had 569 killed and wounded, and both squadrons were very much shattered.

If we turn our eyes on the state of the french nation in Europe, we shall find their condition still more deplorable. The battle of Minden, which proved so fatal to their designs, having destroyed all their hopes in Germany for that campaign*, their court found it absolutely necessary to recruit, cloath, and pay their troops ; articles as difficult to be effected, as the necessity was urgent ; but by contracting the plan of their operations, they resolved to make every effort in their power, to render marshal Broglio's army as formidable as possible. To a nation without trade as France was, the supplies to support so great a charge were excessively difficult to be raised. The vast sums which had been sent out of the kingdom in subsidies to their allies, and in the pay of their troops, had extremely impoverished the nation ; but still they would not have exhausted it, had France

* They were obliged to trust to their marine, as the last effort ; but the defeat of their grand fleet under Conflans, ruined all their schemes.

been in the possession of a flourishing commerce : so far was this from being the case, that their foreign trade was entirely ruined ; the principal of their colonies torn from them ; and almost universal bankruptcy ensued throughout the whole kingdom. Such being the exhausted state of that kingdom, it was found impossible to raise such great sums as were necessary, by regular means only ; recourse therefore was had to the most fatal and extraordinary ones. On this occasion, they did not scruple to break in upon the public faith, and to find supplies for one year, in an expedient that struck at the sources of all future credit. The ministry stopped payment upon public bills and funds *. But even this resource, was insufficient ; the king threw his own plate into the public stock as an example, and a request that others should contribute in the same manner from their private fortune, to the necessities of state. Many of the nobility, gentry, churches and convents actually carried their plate to the mint ; but still it was very far from being universal ; there was a general reluctance to forward this method of supply, and to trust the public with so considerable a part of their substance, at the instant when they saw it so notoriously break its faith in other particulars. These miserable resources, however, enabled the ministry still to continue the war in Germany ; and to refuse the offers of peace which the

* The following are the public debts, of which the french court have stopped payment :

1. The three kinds of rents created on the posts. 2. The constituted upon the chest of redemptions. 3. The coupons of bills on the same chest. 4. Those of the two royal lotteries. 5. The reimbursement of bills, drawn to bearer, on the same chest. 6. The bills of the two royal lotteries. 7. The rents created on the two sols per pound of the 10th penny. 8. Reimbursements of the capitals of rents. 9. The payments of bills dischargeable in nine years, known under the name of annuities. 10. Those of the new actions on the benefit of the farms. 11. All the bills drawn by the colonies upon the government, amounting to 1,333,000 l.

kings

kings of Great Britain and Prussia * made them at the end of the year : for as they did not expect, from their

* The following declaration was delivered by his serene highness duke Lewis of Brunswick to the ministers of the belligerent powers residing at the Hague, in the name of the two kings.

“ Their britannic and prussian majesties, moved with compassion at the mischiefs which the war, that has been kindled for some years, has already occasioned, and must necessarily produce; should think themselves wanting to the duties of humanity, and particularly to their tender concern for the preservation and well-being of their respective kingdoms and subjects, if they neglected the proper means to put a stop to the progress of so severe a calamity, and to contribute to the re-establishment of public tranquility. In this view, and in order to manifest the purity of their intentions, in this respect, their said majesties have determined to make the following declaration, viz.

“ That they are ready to send plenipotentiaries to the place, which shall be thought most proper, in order there to treat conjointly, of a solid and general peace, with those whom the belligerent parties shall think fit to authorise, on their part, for the attaining so salutary an end.”

This declaration was made at the end of november, and no answer appeared to it, till about four months after, when the following declaration was made by the opposite party. Having mentioned the above offer, it goes on, “ Her majesty, the empress queen of Hungary and Bohemia; her majesty, the empress of all the Russia's; and his majesty, the most christian king, equally animated by the desire of contributing to the re-establishment of the public tranquility on a solid and equitable footing, declare in return;

That his majesty, the catholic king, having been pleased to offer his mediation in the war, which has subsisted for some years between France and England; and this war, having besides, nothing in common with that which the two empresses with their allies, have likewise carried on for some years against the king of Prussia.

His most christian majesty is ready to treat of his particular peace with England, through the good offices of his catholic majesty, whose mediation he has a pleasure in accepting.

As to the war which regards directly his prussian majesty, their majesties the empress queen of Hungary and Bohemia, the empress of all the Russia's, and the most christian king, are disposed to agree to the appointing the congress proposed. But as by virtue of their treaties, they cannot enter into any engagement relating to peace, but in conjunction with their allies, it will be necessary, in order that they may be enabled to explain themselves definitively upon that subject, that their britannic and prussian majesties, should previously

their situation very advantageous or honourable terms, they resolved still to hold out, and determined to hazard the last extremities, hoping something favourable from the fortune of their allies, since their own had deserted them. This was the reason of their delaying (in conjunction with the two empresses) to answer the declaration of duke Lewis of Brunswick, near four months; had they been inclined to peace, they might very easily have found means to do it, in much less time; but as they could not, with a good grace reject those overtures, they had recourse to delays. The formal invitation which they require, should be made to the kings of Poland, and Sweden, plainly evinces this; for had a congress been appointed, there is no doubt, but those two princes, especially the former, would gladly have sent plenipotentiaries to it, where their pretensions might have been fairly discussed; but by this affected delay, three or four months must be lost; and if those difficulties had been removed, pretences would not have been wanting to put it off for some months more. It plainly appeared, that as the affairs of France were in such a bad situation, that court was resolved to try the event of another campaign, hoping to be able to get possession of Hanover, and thereby conclude a peace on more advantageous terms than she could at that time expect.

Before I take my leave of the transactions of this year, so gloriously marked in the annals of Great-Britain; I must observe, how extremely successful the british arms were, in every part of the world. The conquest of Quebec, the capital of the french dominions in America, was as advantageous to our

be pleased to cause their invitation to a congress to be made to all the powers, that are directly engaged in war against the king of Prussia, and namely, to his majesty the king of Poland, elector of Saxony, as likewise to his majesty, the king of Sweden, who ought specifically to be invited to the future congress."

interest,

interest, as it was glorious to the brave soldiers, by whose conduct and courage it was won. The success which attended our arms under general Amherst, contributed greatly to secure our colonies from the depredations of the french and their indians, and brought under the dominion of Britain, an immense tract of country, of the greatest importance. The acquisition of Guardaloupe, was as highly advantageous to the trade and commercial interest of this kingdom, as it was fatal to that of France. That memorable victory obtained in the plains of Minden, through the admirable conduct of duke Ferdinand of Brunswick, and the gallant behaviour of the english infantry, not only threw the whole kingdom of France into the utmost consternation, but obliged them to have recourse to their marine for an invasion of Britain, as the only hopes they had left, of being able to retrieve the many and desperate losses they had sustained. Lastly, the action at cape Lagos, under admiral Boscawen; but more particularly that remarkable victory at Belleisle, wherein, sir Edward Hawke acquitted himself so much to the satisfaction of his own honour, and the expectations of his country, blasted every sanguine hope of our distressed enemies; and involved them in the most despairing confusion. They were no longer able to carry on the war, either with the ordinary revenue of the kingdom, or those extraordinary sums, which are always raised in France, to support a war; but were obliged to have recourse to the most unprecedented and illegal means of raising money; equally fatal to the credit of their government, and insufficient to supply their pressing necessities.

C H A P. XXVI.

Affairs in Europe, in the beginning of the year 1760. Thurot sails from Dunkirk. Lands in Scotland. Re-embarks. Lands in Ireland. Carrickfergus surrenders. Is plundered by the french. They re-imbark. Captain Elliot takes Thurot's squadron. Court martial on lord George Sackville. Sentence on his lordship. Affairs in north America. French prepare to besiege Quebec. Motions of brigadier general Murray. Action on the heights of St. Abraham. The trenches opened. The siege raised. Affairs in the East-indies.

IN speaking of the french scheme for an invasion, I before mentioned, that there was to be a small squadron dispatched from Dunkirk, under M. Thurot, (a man who had rendered himself truly celebrated by his vast success, while commander of the *Belleisle* privateer), to make an attempt on Scotland or Ireland, in order to divide the attention of the british ministry. An english squadron, under commodore Boys, was stationed for some time before Dunkirk, to prevent Thurot's getting out. But the frenchman seizing a lucky opportunity, slipped out, and sailed directly northward. Boys followed him as soon as possible; but was not able to prevent his getting into Gottenburgh, in which harbour, and in that of Bergen, he took refuge some time, waiting an opportunity to get out. He effected it at last; and, on the 17th of february appeared off the island of Illa, in Argyleshire. In the evening they shewed english colours, which induced two gentlemen to go on board, whom they detained. Soon after,

after, some of their boats put off for the shore. In their way they boarded two small sloops, lying at anchor in a small bay of the island, which they plundered; the crews of the boats next landed on the island, and while Thurot remained on it, he behaved in every respect more like a friend than an enemy. He payed for every thing he took, even beyond their value; he allowed thirty shillings for every cow, half a crown for every goose, one shilling for a hen, and in proportion for flour, and other things. He kept the best discipline, and prevented pillaging as much as possible. He enquired very anxiously concerning the fate of Conflans's fleet, and was much surprised to hear, that that admiral had suffered himself to be beat without striking a blow. As Thurot's fleet consisted only of four small ships, the largest of which, did not mount above 50 guns, it was not in his power to make any attempt of consequence in Scotland.

On the 21st, he appeared with only three ships off the isle of Magee, standing in shore for the bay of Carrickfergus, in Ireland. At that time the small number of troops belonging to the garrison, were at exercise about half a mile on the road to Belfast; and about eleven o'clock the guard was turned off, to relieve that on the french prisoners in the castle; the rest of the men remaining in the field of exercise. The commanding officer no sooner received advice of three ships being seen so near the coast, and of their having detained some fishing boats, than he sent immediate orders to the castle, for both guards to continue under arms, and double the centries over the french prisoners that were confined there. A lieutenant with a reconnoitring party took post on a rising ground, to discover whether the ships were french; he soon perceived eight boats landing armed men; and that they drew out in detachments and took post on all the dykes, hedges, and rising grounds, from

whence they could have the most extensive views ; having ordered his corps to resist them as long as they were able, in case they were attacked, he hastened to lieutenant colonel Jennings, the commanding officer, to acquaint him with what he had discovered. The lieutenant colonel was with his troops on the parade of Carrickfergus, who immediately ordered detachments to the gates of the town, and took every precaution in his power to prevent the enemy from making themselves masters of it ; ordering the french prisoners to be removed with all speed to Belfast.

By this time, the french, to the number of about 1000 men, were in full march for the town ; they attempted to enter the gates, but were repulsed ; and again made two different attacks, with the like ill success, being kept back as long as the troops of the garrison had ammunition. Lieutenant colonel Jennings then ordered his men into the castle ; and the french immediately appeared in the market place ; where they might have been attacked with great advantage, had it not been for the most scandalous want of ammunition. The french finding the fire of the garrison so weak, attacked the gates of the castle sword in hand, which from the battering of the shot on both sides, were knocked open, and the enemy marched in ; but lieutenant colonel Jennings, with some officers, and about 50 men repulsed them, and the men from a half moon near the gates, after their ammunition was gone, threw stones and bricks. Had this attack of the enemy been supported with the least degree of courage, they must certainly have succeeded in it ; but they retired back under cover, leaving the gates open, and the garrison drawn up in their front. Jennings would have sallied, had they had ammunition ; but without it the enterprise was too dangerous. And as the breach in the castle wall could not be defended, as it was 50 feet long, it was
was

was agreed to beat a parley; and accordingly lieutenant colonel Jennings marched out with the honours of war, agreeing that an equal number of french prisoners should be sent to France in lieu of the garrison. By an article of the capitulation, the mayor and corporation were to furnish the french with provisions; but they not executing that article to the french general's satisfaction, the town was plundered. On the 22d, they sent a flag of truce to Belfast, and made a demand of several articles of provisions, and other necessaries to be delivered that day, promising to pay for them, and threatening, in case of refusal, to burn Carrickfergus, and afterwards to come up and burn Belfast also. With which demands, the inhabitants thought it best to comply. The french lost about 60 men in their attack on Carrickfergus; and having carried the mayor and some of the principal inhabitants aboard their ships, as a security for having the french prisoners sent to France, they re-embarked their troops, and set sail the 26th.

In the mean time, this handful of french troops, inconsiderable as they were, alarmed the whole kingdom of Ireland, and all the western coast of England. The rich towns of Liverpool and Whitehaven, were in fear for their ships and effects; twelve hundred men of the neighbouring militia marched to Liverpool, as soon as it was known that Thurot was landed in Ireland. There were at that time 200 sail of ships in the harbour of Whitehaven, and nothing to defend them; the neighbouring gentlemen, to protect the town and country, raised and armed 600 men. Ships were dispatched from several ports in quest of the french commodore; and the duke of Bedford, lord lieutenant of Ireland, issued the necessary orders for the forces in the northern part of that kingdom, to march towards Carrickfergus; and dispatched an express to Kinsale, to inform Capt. Elliot, who

who commanded three men of war there, that M. Thurot was upon the coast.

Elliot directly set sail from Kinsale, with the *Æolus* of 32 guns, and the *Pallas* and *Brilliant* of 36 guns each: he made the entrance of Carrickfergus bay the 26th; but could not get in, the wind being contrary, and very bad weather. The 28th, at four in the morning, he got sight of them, and gave chase. About nine he got up along-side the french commodore, off the isle of Man, and in a few minutes after the action became general, and lasted about an hour and a half, when they all three struck their colours; although Thurot was killed by a cannon ball, yet his ship the *Belleisle* was fought so very bravely, that it was feared she would sink before she could be got into port; she mounted 44 guns, and carried 545 men, including troops; the *la Blonde* carried 32 guns and 400 men; and the *Terpsichore* of 26 guns and 300 men. The english officers and sailors, as well as those of the french, fought very bravely. The loss of the conquerors was trifling, that of the french amounted to about 300 men killed and wounded. Thurot was one of the bravest men that had appeared in France since the beginning of the war; he was remarkable for his mild and generous treatment of the prisoners he took while commander of the *Belleisle* privateer.

Before I dismiss this subject, I must observe, that Carrickfergus is the only magazine in the north of Ireland, from which all the troops in that part of the country were supplied with powder, &c. The fortifications were so much out of repair, that it was impossible to defend it better than was done by lieutenant colonel Jennings, so that what reason there could be for the expression in the London Gazette; "Had suffered himself with four companies of major general Strode's regiment, to be made prisoners of war:" I cannot find out, "Suffered himself,"
plainly

plainly implies his having made a bad defence. The parliament of Ireland had at different times, lately granted 450,000 l. for repairing the fortifications of the kingdom ; therefore there must have been some very fatal neglect in this place's not having been put in a better posture of defence. Some having imagined that Thurot was driven into Carrickfergus by stress of weather, and want of provisions ; but its much more probable, he landed there by design, he might very likely be acquainted with the weak state of the place ; and have had in his eye the wealthy city of Belfast just by it, as a proper object of his expedition : the preparations made by the lord lieutenant to prevent his penetrating further into the country, might have been the reason of his not attempting it.

In the mean time, the attention of all ranks of people was entirely engrossed by the proceedings of a general court martial, appointed by his majesty to sit on the trial of lord George Sackville. His lordship as I before mentioned, had petitioned for one as soon as he arrived in England, after the battle of Minden ; but it was not found convenient to assemble it till the beginning of march : as many officers were to be called home from Germany as witnesses ; besides some other reasons of a different nature. It was a point very much disputed, whether a man, dismissed from all his military employments, could be tried for an offence, committed while he was in the army ; and as opinions differed extremely, the case was laid before the judges : it was supposed from their answer, that he might legally be tried. Accordingly, a court martial, consisting of the following members, met the 29th of february, for that purpose :

Lieutenant general Onslow, president.

Sir Charles Howard,
Campbell,

Lieutenant

Lieutenant general Lord Delaware,
 Cholmondeley,
 Stuart,
 earl of Panmure,
 Ancram,
 Harrington,
 Abercrombie,
 Albemarle.

Major general Leighton,
 Carr,
 earl of Effingham,
 Belford.

On lord George Sackville's being ordered into court, the judge advocate informed him, that all the members of the court were sworn, except general Belford, who was omitted on account of an objection which his lordship said he should make to his being a member of the court. Lord George Sackville having given his reasons * for making such an objection ; general

* They were as follow: " When I was appointed lieutenant general to the ordnance, the duke of Marlborough ordered me to take the care of the artillery regiment upon me, as being one part of my duty. I represented to his grace, that when lord Ligonier was lieutenant general of the ordnance, the care of the regiment was left entirely to the colonel commandant; the duke of Marlborough said, that he could not in decency have desired my lord Ligonier, who was his superior in the army, and had been for many years at the head of the ordnance, to enter into such a regimental detail; but that he had no scruple in desiring me to do that part of my duty, and to report regularly to him. I expressed my readiness to obey; but said, that, previous to my undertaking it, his grace must give the proper orders for recalling that power, which was at present in general Belford, as colonel commandant. It was accordingly done; and when I began to execute my duty, general Belford expressed his disapprobation of it, thinking any diminution of his authority might be looked upon as some degree of disapprobation of his conduct. I explained to him what had passed upon the subject, between the master general and me, and he appeared better satisfied; and, as I afterwards had an opportunity of representing his services so favourably to his majesty,

heral Belford replied, that he was far from desiring to sit when objected, but only desired to know what the objection was : the court thereupon took the affair into consideration, and were unanimously of opinion, that lord George Sackville's objection was insufficient to exclude general Belford from sitting as a member ; but as the general continued to exclude himself from sitting, the court agreed to it.

There was sitting at this time another court-martial on lord Charles Hay, for some offences committed by him in north America, under lord Loudon, of which general Onslow was also a member ; and his lordship behaving in a strange absurd manner *, it provoked Onslow, a man of great dignity, and equal spirit, to speak very warmly to lord Charles Hay : and his warmth cost him his life ; for he had hardly concluded his speech, but he dropped down of an apoplectic fit, and being instantly carried home, died

as to obtain a considerable increase of emolument to him. I did imagine any little difference that had happened had been entirely forgot ; but persons in my situation are apt to watch little attentions, which at other times would be too trifling to regard ; and as, upon my return to England, general Belford was the only field officer of the regiment, with whom I was acquainted, that did not shew me even the common civility of a visit ; and, as the first act he did, after my quitting the service, was recommending another aid de camp to my lord Granby, in preference to the artillery officer, who had attended me in that capacity, I confess these circumstances induced me to think, that general Belford still retained some degree of ill-will towards me ; and though I am far from suspecting that he would knowingly permit his judgment to be in the least influenced by such considerations ; yet, as there is such a bias in the minds of men, when there is any prejudice in their breasts, that it often affects their actions, unknown to themselves ; I should hope the general would decline sitting upon this trial ; I do not offer what I have said as a legal objection, but rather submit my reasons to the court, and to him for their considerations."

* He swore by G—d they were not a legal court martial, but a sanguinary court of inquisition. General Cornwallis has said, that he asked him some cross questions, in hopes that he would throw the inkstand, &c. at his head, and by some such action, put an end to so ridiculous a court martial.

in

in a few days. He was a great loss to the court martial on lord George Sackville, as no man was ever more proper for a president of one.

There was a new warrant issued the 6th of march, appointing sir Charles Howard president, and adding to the former number of members, the major generals lord Robert Manners, lord Robert Bertie, and Julius Cæsar. I have already given the reader some particular points of this trial, in my account of the battle of Minden, from the evidence of several witnesses; the shortness of the plan of this work will not permit me now to be particular in regard to the trial*.

The

* There were some remarkable articles of evidence which deserve to be remembered.

It was observed, not only by the members of the court, but by all present, that lieutenant colonel Sloper gave his evidence with great acrimony, and was to appearance, much prejudiced against the prisoner; this was what occasioned lord George Sackville's saying in his defence, "In what manner his evidence was given, I need not remind the court." And again, "If his own behaviour has not entirely destroyed the credit of his testimony." Lieut. col. Sloper, in his evidence, says, that as soon as capt. Ligonier had delivered the duke's order to lord George Sackville, he (Sloper) said to him, "For God's sake, sir, repeat your orders to that man, (meaning lord George Sackville), that he may not pretend not to understand them, for it is near half an hour ago, that he has received orders to advance, and yet we are still here," adding, "But you see the condition he is in." Being afterwards desired to explain what he meant by these last words; he answered, that his opinion was, that lord George Sackville was alarmed to a very great degree, that when his lordship ordered him to advance, he seemed in the greatest confusion.

LORD G. SACKVILLE. Sir Charles Howard, if I may be allowed to say a few words, touching this gentleman's (Sloper's) evidence before I go any further.

GEN. CHOLMONDELEY. I am never against any indulgence to the prisoner.

LORD G. SACKVILLE. It is a little hard for me to be sitting here, and have a witness come against me, with an opinion of this nature, and I forced to remain entirely silent. I shall only say a few words. This sort of attack, I never heard before, from any one gentleman whatever, excepting from the private insinuations of this gentleman,

now

The prisoner, during the course of it, behaved with great conduct, and discovered infinite abilities; he endeavoured

now before the court; I have heard of it since he has been in London. I am glad that he has mentioned it in court. I, ———

Lord ALBEMARLE. Your lordship will have an opportunity of observing upon that in your defence; but, I am afraid we are going into an irregularity.

Lord G. SACKVILLE. I will only say now, that I will prove my conduct that day, with regard to every branch of it, and I will shew that gentleman to the court in such colours, for truth and veracity.

Lord ALBEMARLE. My lord, this is being very irregular.

Lord G. SACKVILLE. Your lordship may imagine, that what I must feel on such an occasion; and it is difficult not to express it instantly.

Lord ALBEMARLE. I am very sensible of what your lordship must feel, and sorry to interrupt; but the course of proceeding ———

Lord G. SACKVILLE. I submit to the opinion of the court, and must beg leave to suppose, for the present, that no such evidence has been given. I shall now go on as if nothing of this sort had happened, and shall treat that gentleman, in that part of his evidence, with the contempt it deserves.

In another place his lordship makes an observation, on the evidence of colonel Sloper, in the following words: " Having mentioned col. Sloper's evidence, I am obliged to take notice of the aspersion he has thrown upon my character. Imputations of that nature were very little to be expected from one, who had the honour of arriving at the rank of a lieutenant general, after a course of some duty and service. It is hard upon a man to be obliged to speak of his own actions, or of his own merit or character in the service; but what makes it on this occasion absolutely unnecessary, is, that most of the generals, who compose this court, have either commanded me, or I have had the honour of commanding them; and I am persuaded, they will feel a generous indignation in my behalf, and declare, whether my former conduct ought not to have exempted me from so mean an attack."

During the course of the defence, lord George Sackville asked his witnesses such questions as he thought would contradict the aspersions thrown on him by lieutenant-colonel Sloper; endeavouring to prove his evidence false in several particulars. As soon as he had finished examining his witnesses, the judge advocate observed that his lordship had, in his defence, impeached the lieutenant-colonel's credibility; proposing by way of reply, to support the credibility of the witness, when his lordship had summed up his defence; but lord George wanted to have the fresh evidence examined before he concluded his defence, that he might answer any thing new, that appeared; or else
that

endeavoured where ever he could introduce them, to throw reflections on duke Ferdinand, implying, that he

that the court would promise to permit him to make a rejoinder to the judge advocate's reply. Amongst other things which his lordship said, — " I find upon my trial a question proposed of very great consequence. I did not care at that time to give an answer to it. " The natural inference is, that the court will go on, and afterwards consider of it. My reason for desiring the court to go on now is, that I am desirous of hearing all that is to be said. As to the evidence I have given, I do not know how far the court will admit of evidence in reply to it ; and suppose if any thing is offered by way of reply that is new, it may be necessary for me to ask for a rejoinder. " I am frightened every time I talk of law ; I am told, if the court lets the prosecutor into new matter in supply, it will bring on a rejoinder, that is, to answer the new matter ; if that is the case, I shall have the same indulgence that every prisoner has in any court of justice."

JUDGE ADVOCATE. In order that the reply may be properly made, I should be glad to hear what lord George has to offer in his observations.

As to a rejoinder, it is common in civil cases, if any new matter is introduced, the prisoner will have a right to answer that ; I mentioned that particularly before.

I should be glad his lordship would not talk of law, I am not a military person, I do not really see why that should be thrown out, I have not the honour of wearing a military garb ; but I hope I have endeavoured to conduct the prosecution with tenderness and candour.

As to the reply, it is agreeable to law, and practice founded in reason, that the prosecutor should be at liberty to establish the credit of his witnesses, and to reply to any new matter introduced in the course of the defence.

If the credibility of a witness is to be impeached, and his credit not to be established, I don't know to what purpose it would be to prosecute at all.

Lord G. SACKVILLE. As to the judge advocate, I wish, as he observes, he either wore a military garb, or were a person of such eminence and reputation in the profession of the law, as might entitle him to lay down the rules and practice of the courts of justice, in such a manner, as the prisoner might have no doubt of the truth of what was asserted to be law. I wish one of the judges of England was to sit here, the prisoner then would have been certain of being tried by the real laws of this land, and not by laws made occasionally for him ; I desire therefore, no middle term. The judge advocate is very able in his post ; but I do not apprehend he knows the rules and practice of courts in general. Here what do you do ?

If

he had posted the cavalry of the right wing where it could be of no service ; but such insinuations were very

If there is a point of law, you refer to the judge-advocate ; why, because you don't know law, not because he does. I know as little ; I used the word rejoinder, I got it but the other day myself, and the court seemed to start when I mentioned it. When there is a difficulty, you refer to the judge-advocate, who is to determine ; other courts never determine in any matter, without the advantage of being informed of what can be offered on both sides ; this court, ignorant themselves of a matter of law, can only receive their information from the prosecutor. I have a great respect for Mr. Gould's character as judge-advocate, and think he fits there, and executes his office, as ably as any man I ever saw in his place. For the sake of the precedent it would make, I might say something ; because every witness, whose character may be said to be impeached in a controverted proceeding, will by this means, have an opportunity of bringing in fresh evidence of fresh facts, and the prisoner must stand a second trial upon the same charge. As to my own part, if the court thinks fit to admit it, let them say that this does not affect me ; let them say that the credit of the witness is impeached ; by contradicting his facts ; let them say, that such is the practice of courts-martial ; I shall lament the fate of those who are to be tried by courts-martial ; but with regard to myself, it is impossible for me to object to the determination. What I have proved, is the shewing the opinion of those about me, to whom I gave orders, with whom I was during the whole day, that is a direct contradiction of the fact ; it includes the time of which col. Sloper speaks, the evidence now offered, is not to support this fact, it relates to another time.

Indeed the judge-advocate has said, it is not matter for the court, but for the publick, it is so. It is food for clamour, for which reason I wish to see the bottom of it. I should not have stood here, a prisoner at this bar, if I had been afraid of any thing that could be said, conscious innocence is my support.

Notwithstanding all that I have suffered, that innocence still supports me. I feel myself injured, and I know myself innocent. I feel myself before a court, that is to punish the guilty ; but the most amiable part of their jurisdiction, is to protect the innocent.

I have confidence in every set of gentlemen, who are upon oath, to do justice ; no gentleman can be under any influence.

In this court a prisoner has an additional security ; he is sure, their honour will bind them, if their oath did not ; standing under that security, I defy the prosecutor.

very little regarded, as the contrary was known to be the truth. As to his guilt, the court adjudged him by their sentence unfit to serve his majesty in any military capacity whatever. * As it is not the custom for land courts-martial to draw up a set of resolutions by way of reasons for their sentence; we cannot here so readily determine the nature of his lordship's guilt. That he was guilty, is indisputable; he most undoubtedly disobeyed the orders of duke Ferdinand. His serene highness ordered him to advance through the trees on his left, to form a third line, and support the infantry. Now it was very evident that the infantry were to be supported; and if that was the case, the time must consequently be extremely critical. Could

Let col. Sloper stand forth, and from a witness become the agent of a prosecution. Let his character be supported by the testimony of opinion; opinion not founded upon facts, will only shew a readiness to form an opinion to a man's disadvantage. It is not proof, it is not a foundation for a court of justice to determine upon; it could not be brought hence, but with another intention.

If the court will establish the precedent, I submit; but out of regard to the profession I once was of, I oppose it.

Permit me to say, when I take my leave of the profession, that though I shall submit it to the decision of the court, I shall lament the jurisdiction.

The court determined that no new witnesses should be called in to prove that Lord George Sackville appeared alarmed. But that they would admit evidence to prove col. Sloper's having declared these facts the day after.

I shall conclude what I have to say on the subject of colonel S——r's evidence, with observing, that there had been formerly a quarrel between lord George Sackville and him, which was never made up.

* The court upon due consideration, of the whole matter before them, is of opinion, that lord George Sackville is guilty of having disobeyed the orders of prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, whom he was by his commission and instructions directed to obey, as commander in chief, according to the rules of war; and it is the farther opinion of this court, That the said lord George Sackville is, and he is hereby adjudged, unfit to serve his majesty, in any military capacity whatever.

CHARLES HOWARD.

Could this reasonably be thought a season for requiring an explanation of his orders, when they ought instantly to have been put in execution? Had he not better have disobeyed his orders in part, by advancing forwards, and doing his duty, instead of turning to the left? But the misfortune was, he never stirred at all. If he had advanced, it would at least have shewn an inclination to obey. — But I am arguing on a point too well established, to admit a doubt. — The only article which will bear an argument, is the motive of his guilt: a topic certainly more curious than useful: I fear in this case I am of a different opinion from the generality of men. Lord G. S-ck-vill- had, before the battle of Minden, expressed his disapprobation of many of duke Ferdinand's orders, in such a manner as shewed that he did not at all relish a superior in command. I cannot help attributing his bad conduct at that battle, to his disgust at the duke's command. A motive which certainly fixes a greater stain than cowardice could possibly do. I cannot help thinking but such vast abilities would in a great measure get the better of his fear, when so much was at stake as in his command: but this is a point which I leave to philosophers to determine. His lordship concludes the introduction to his defence, in these words. “ This
“ defence is intended, not for the world, but for
“ the information of the court. All I at present
“ desire is, that mankind would suspend their judg-
“ ment of my conduct, till the evidence is closed;
“ then I trust in the goodness of my cause, which has
“ supported me under a load of calumny, and em-
“ boldened me to ask for this trial; that under your
“ favourable judgment, the candid will with pleasure
“ acquit me, the prejudiced be obliged to retract their
“ rash censures, and that I shall again be restored to
“ the good opinion of my country, and of my so-
K k 2 “ vereign.”

“vereign.” And again at the end of his defence, he says: “My witnesses cannot say what they have said, without being convinced that it is truth, and said in support of innocence. They can have no motive of interest: what motives of interest can there be on the side of one who is a prisoner, who has been in great employments? Perhaps unworthily! Employments, which had I continued in power, might have procured good will, at least the appearance of it. At present they can have no temptation but the force of truth; and by their appearing in that cause; and on these motives, they deserve as great a degree of credibility, as any witness at any bar. In justice to them I have troubled the court thus far. I shall trouble them no longer; but express my acknowledgments, not only for their patience in hearing me, but for the many instances of their indulgence. I can expect no better security for my cause, than their uninfluenced determination. I have mentioned already, that I have the security of their oath; I have a stronger still, their honour: upon that I rely. — If I am guilty, let me be declared so. If I am not guilty, let the court shew by their sentence, that they will with pleasure protect the innocent.”

’Tis well known what a natural aversion the king has to soldiers who don’t do their duty; he no sooner confirmed the sentence of the court-martial, than he ordered lord George Sackville’s name to be struck out of the list of the privy-council. His m——y had, during the whole course of the trial, expressed himself very anxiously on some particulars relating to their proceedings. He had been heard to say, “This trial is not on lord G—— S——, but on me.” It was remarked that l—— A——, during the trial, asked only leading questions in favour of lord George Sackville; and on the contrary, g——

C——

C——— asked none, but those which were directly against him ; the reason for the former's behaviour, when we consider his connections with the d——e, is easily conjectured ; nor were the general's motives ever thought to be impenetrable.

But it is now time to take a view of the military operations in North America ; they were indeed of but small extent, but great importance. Nothing less depended on them, than the possession of our darling conquest, Quebec. General Murray was left governor of that city, on its falling into our hands, and had a garrison with him of about 6000 men ; a number not in the least too numerous, as the men were extremely fatigued and harrassed with one of the most difficult campaigns that ever was conducted ; and as the city was so meanly fortified, that it was not entirely secure against a coup-de-main.

No sooner was general Murray settled in this government, than he began repairing the ruins of the city ; he built eight redoubts of wood out of the city, made foot banks along the ramparts, opened embrasures, placed his cannon, blocked up all the avenues of the suburbs with a stockade, carried eleven months provisions into the highest part of the city, and formed a magazine of 4000 fascines. As soon as these and many other labours, were in some forwardness, the general sent out two detachments, to take possession of St. Foix and Lorette, two posts of great importance, as they secured eleven parishes in the neighbourhood of the city, which greatly contributed to furnish them with fresh provisions during the winter ; and also with wood, an article much wanted by the garrison. During three whole months in the winter, they were employed in dragging wood into the city. This constant labour greatly diminished them, so that before the end of april, 1000 men were

dead, and above 2000 of what remained, were totally unfit for any service.

In the mean time the french general, the chevalier de Lewis, soon got intelligence of the low state of the garrison, and resolved to attempt carrying the city in the depth of winter. In pursuance of this scheme, he made all the necessary preparations; designing to make the attempt in february: but the success of the garrison in some skirmishes, which happened on several occasions, obliged M. de Lewis to alter his plan, and not to think of attacking the city till the spring was more advanced.

As general Murray found that Quebec could be looked upon in no other light than that of a strong cantonment, and that any works he should add to it would be in that style, his plan of defence was, to take the earliest opportunity of intrenching himself on the heights of Abraham, which entirely commanded the ramparts of the place, at the distance of 800 yards, and might have been defended by his numbers, against a large army. But de Lewis did not give the general time to take the advantage of this situation. In the middle of april, the general attempted to execute the projected lines, but found it impracticable, as the earth was still covered with snow in many places, and every where impregably bound up by frost.

Murray was informed in the night of the 26th, that the enemy had landed at Point au Tremble 10,000 men, and 500 barbarians; their scheme was, to cut off the posts of the garrison; but the general by a judicious march, prevented them from executing it; and several reasons concurred, to induce him to give them battle: he considered that his little army was in the habit of beating the enemy, and had a very fine train of field artillery; that shutting himself up within the walls, was putting all upon the
single

single chance of holding out for a considerable time a wretched fortification ; a chance which an action in the field could hardly alter, at the same time that it gave an additional one, perhaps a better. If the event was not prosperous, he determined to hold out to the last extremity ; and then to retreat to the isle of Orleans, with what was left of the garrison, to wait for reinforcements.

In consequence of this resolution, the general marched out the 28th, with all the force he could muster, which did not exceed 3000 men ; forming them on the heights of Abraham, in order of battle ; and observing that the french army was upon the march in one column, as far he could see ; he thought this the lucky moment ; and moved with the utmost order to attack them before they had formed. He soon beat them from the heights they had possessed, though they were well disputed. Major Dalling, who commanded a corps of light infantry, having forced the enemies grenadiers from a house and wind-mill, in attempting to regain the flank of the english army, was charged, thrown into disorder, retired to the rear, and from the number of officers killed and wounded, could never again be brought up during the action. Otway's regiment was ordered to advance immediately, and sustain the right wing, which the enemy in vain made two attempts to penetrate. While this passed there, the left was not idle ; they had dispossessed the enemy of two redoubts, and sustained with unparralleled firmness, the bold united efforts of the enemies regulars, indians and canadians, till at last, fairly fought down, and reduced to a handful, they were obliged to yield to superior numbers. This disorder was soon communicated to the right ; but the whole retired in such a way, that the enemy did not venture upon a brisk pursuit. Most of the cannon was left, as the rough-

ness of the ground, and the wreaths of snow, made it impossible to bring them off; but what could not be brought off, were nailed up. The killed and wounded amounted to one third of those in the field; that of the french, by their own confession, exceeded 2500 men, which may be readily conceived, as the action lasted an hour and three quarters.

On the night of the 28th, the french opened the trenches before the town; some frigates which they were in possession of, anchored below their camp; for several days they were busy in landing their cannon, mortars, and other ammunition; they worked incessantly at perfecting their trenches, and raising batteries; and on the 11th of may, they opened three batteries of cannon, and one of bombs. The garrison were not idle; they made the necessary dispositions to defend the place to the last extremity; they planted cannon on every bastion, and even in the curtains; and raised new works; insomuch that before the enemy opened their batteries, they had 132 pieces of cannon, placed on the ramparts, mostly dragged there by the soldiery. Notwithstanding this formidable artillery, they were so circumstanced, that had a french fleet appeared first in the river, the place must certainly have fell.

A small squadron of ships had been some time on their passage to Quebec, under lord Colvil and commodore Swanton: general Murray depended on their arrival, to be able to oblige the french to raise the siege; it was the 9th of may before he received any intelligence of them. The 16th, two english frigates were ordered by commodore Swanton to slip their cables, and attack the french fleet, which immediately weighed anchor; but they were so closely followed, and so briskly attacked, that their whole squadron consisting of six ships, ran aground in different places, and several of them were destroyed.

This

This misfortune was like a thunder-bolt to the french; they raised the siege the same evening, and retreated with the greatest precipitation. They left their camp standing, all their baggage, stores, magazines of provisions and ammunition, 34 pieces of battering cannon, ten field pieces, six mortars, four petards, a large quantity of scaling ladders, and intrenching tools beyond number. Spies and deserters reported, that they wanted provisions and ammunition excessively, and that the greatest part of their canadians had deserted them. General Murray, at the head of five regiments, and the grenadiers and light infantry, pushed out in pursuit of them; but they had crossed the river Caprouge before they could get up with them; and retired to a place called Jaques Cartier, not having above 5000 men remaining. In this successful manner was the siege of this celebrated city raised, by the conduct of the brave governor, with his intrepid garrison, and the assistance of so inconsiderable a naval force. All the officers and men distinguished themselves remarkably; there never being, perhaps, a more fatiguing winter to any troops; and succeeding such a laborious campaign.

The same success, which so remarkably distinguished the english arms in America, also attended their operations in the East-Indies. This war was more important, and of greater extent in that country, than is generally the case. Colonel Clive who commanded in chief, had, from his first entering on his command, been surprisingly successful: the beginning of this year, he gave another specimen of his abilities. It seems the dutch had a great inclination to engross the salt-petre trade entirely to themselves. The share which they had of this trade, was carried on at Chincery, a strong fort and factory in the river of Bengal; but the english salt-petre trade was much more considerable at Calcutta. The governor of Batavia being informed,

informed, that the english ships were absent on the coast, thought this a fair opportunity to attempt executing this scheme. Under colour of reinforcing their garrisons, he sent a body of troops to the mouth of the river. Colonel Clive had suspected their designs; and on the arrival of the two first transports, which were ships of 36 guns, and full of men, the colonel informed the dutch commodore, that he could not allow him to land any forces, or to march up to Chincery, as he had from good authority been acquainted with their scheme. The dutchman only desired the liberty of refreshing his men ashore; which was granted him. In the mean time, five other dutchmen arrived in the river. The commodore now began to retaliate; he not only ordered the land forces to march directly to Chincery, but, the ships to take every english vessel that should appear on the river, which was executed on several. Soon after, the Calcutta, captain Wilson, an english East-india man, went down the river, bound for England. When he came a-breast of the dutch commodore, he was hailed, and told, that if he offered to pass they would sink him. Captain Wilson directly returned up to Calcutta, where two other East-Indiamen were lying; and on his arrival, informed colonel Clive of his being stopped. The colonel with a becoming spirit immediately ordered the three Indiamen to prepare themselves for action, and to endeavour to take, burn, sink, and destroy every dutch ship they should meet in the river. The dutchmen, on their approach, drew up into a line to receive them; three mounted 36 guns, three 26, and one 16. The engagement began with great fury, and in a short time, the dutch commodore struck his flag; his example being followed by three others; and of the remaining four, two of them escaped, and the other ran ashore. The prisoners were carried to colonel Clive; who
being

being informed, that the land forces which the dutch had set on shore, amounting to about 1100 men, were in full march for Chincery, detached 500 men, under major Ford to oppose them. The same bad success attended the dutch arms by land as by sea: the major entirely defeated them, killed 400, and took all the rest prisoners. Colonel Clive compromised the affair with this perfidious enemy, and returned their ships, on their giving security to pay a large sum of money for the damage the english suffered in the two engagements. Had not this affair ended in so successful a manner, we might have expected to have had the tragedy of Amboyna acted in Bengal.

The british arms were equally successful against the french. Colonel Clive having resigned the command in these parts, (in which he had been so signally successful) to colonel Coote, he embarked for Europe. He was one of the richest subjects in Christendom; which is not to be wondered at, since he had possessed so many opportunities of making an immense fortune. Colonel Coote took the field at the head of an army, towards the end of november; and being informed that general Lally had sent a detachment of his army to the southward, and that that party had taken Syningham, and threatened Trichenopoly with a siege, he thought it adviseable to endeavour to draw the french from that quarter. Accordingly, on the 27th of that month, he invested Wondiwash, and became master of it in two days, making its garrison of between 8 and 900 men prisoners of war. On the 3d of december, he laid siege to Carangoly, and in seven days it surrendered. Mr. Coote having intelligence, that several considerable detachments of french were rendezvoused at Arcot, under brigadier general Buffy; and that general Lally was on the march to join them, he moved with the english

lish army towards Arcot, and encamped opposite to that city, the river Palla running between them. At the end of december, general Lally took the command of the french army; and by the 9th of january 1760, it was all in motion; the general marched towards Wondiwash, and detached a body of near a thousand men to attack Conjeveram: the commanding officer there informed colonel Coote of his danger; who, by making a forced march, saved the place; and strenthening the garrison, marched within a few miles of Wondiwash; which place he found invested by general Lally, who had began to raise his batteries.

The commanding officer in the town informed Mr. Coote, that a breach was made; and the colonel thereupon determined, if possible, to raise the siege; for this end, he advanced with all his cavalry, on the 21st, to reconnoitre. The enemy's situation was very strong; but colonel Coote, on the 22d, by a judicious movement, having got possession of a hill, that covered his right flank, began the attack with a smart cannonade; and in the conclusion gained a complete victory; the french having left him master of the field, together with all their cannon, amounting to 22 pieces, besides a large quantity of shot, with tumbrils, and all other implements belonging to the train. Brigadier general Buffy, and le chevalier Godeville, quarter-master-general were taken prisoners, the former reckoned the richest subject in Christendom; they lost besides, 800 men killed and wounded, and 240 prisoners. The loss on the side of the conquerors was very inconsiderable; that of the greatest consequence was in major Brereton, who was killed. General Lally retired with the shattered remains of his troops to Pondicherry; and towards the end of january, colonel Coote detached captain Vasserot with 1300 men, to the neighbourhood of
that

that city, to destroy the french country, and marched himself with the main army to besiege Chittiput, which surrendered to him the 29th. This success only paved the way to a conquest of more importance; on the 5th of february, he opened his batteries against Arcot, the capital of the province, and became master of it the 10th, finding four mortars, 22 pieces of cannon, and a great quantity of all sorts of military stores in it. These signal successes extended the dominion of the english East-india company, much beyond any thing that was ever known before, and reduced the french in those parts to the greatest distress.

C H A P. XXVII.

Affairs in Germany. Situation of the king of Prussia and the empress queen. Motions of the armies under the generals Fouquet and Laudohn. Fouquet evacuates Landsbut. Glatz blockaded. Battle of Landsbut. Measures of count Daun. Motions of his prussian majesty. Marches for Silesia. Followed by Daun. His critical situation. Lays siege to Dresden. Raises the siege. Motions of general Laudohn. Besieges Glatz. It surrenders. Bombards Breslau. Retires on the approach of prince Henry. Motions of his prussian majesty. His fine march into Silesia. Battle of Merschwitz. Its consequences. Campaign between the allies and the french. Skirmishes. Marpourg taken by the french. Action at Corbach. Action at Erxdorff. Battle of Warbourg.

HIS prussian majesty had received so many severe blows in the last campaign, that it was not expected he would be very early in his operations this year ; indeed, the several armies in Germany, never took the field so late, since the beginning of the war : and, as a peace was expected by some of the parties to take place, before the opening of the campaign, all were remarkably cautious in their conduct, at a season, when a misfortune might be attended with the most decisive consequences ; but as all these hopes were found entirely delusive, the king of Prussia took his usual wise precautions, to have his armies on the best footing possible : the empress queen had, during the whole spring, employed herself in raising numerous recruits for her army in Saxony, and took every measure that foresight could dictate, to render the ensuing campaign decisive. To oppose her the king augmented his own army, which acted against
 marshal

marshal Daun's, and placed his brother Henry at the head of 40,000 men, to defend the eastern parts of his dominions, against the russians; who, it was evident from their conduct, would again attack him. Another body of troops he opposed to the swedes; and it was with surprise, that all Europe saw him still able to defend himself against such numerous and powerful enemies.

His majesty had employed himself during some months, in fortifying his camp near Meissen, which was very strong by nature; but rendered impregnable by art. He made vast intrenchments in every part where it was accessible, and furnished them with such a numerous artillery, that in the front alone, there were near 250 pieces of cannon. Marshal Daun, though greatly superior in numbers to the king, followed his example, and fortified himself in a strong camp near Dresden. The respective armies had been so harrassed the last campaign, that it was the month of june, before either the prussian or austrian troops withdrew from their quarters of cantonment.

The empress queen had placed general Laudohn at the head of an army of about 40,000 men, who were encamped some time in Bohemia, on the frontiers of Lusatia. This corps was destined to attack Silesia. In the beginning of june, Laudohn marched into the county of Glatz, and advanced to Reichenberg, two miles from Schweidnitz. General Fouquet commanded a prussian corps near Landshut, which when augmented with a detachment from prince Henry's army, amounted to near 20,000 men; this general supposed M. Laudohn's design was to cut off the communication between Schweidnitz and Breslau; and with that idea, withdrew all his posts from Landshut, and that neighbourhood, in so precipitate a manner, that he left there a considerable magazine: an austrian general took possession of the town, as soon as it was evacuated. In this manner

ner Laudohn was prevented from attacking Schweidnitz.

That general placed a strong garrison and detachment at Friedland, to support them; he left his cavalry at Franckenstein, and sent his infantry into the county of Glatz: as he found himself unable to penetrate further into Silesia, he resolved to undertake the siege of Glatz, a strong town, the key of Bohemia and Silesia, and by its conquest to open the campaign with some eclat. General Fouquet, in order to relieve that town, advanced against Landshut, and after some resistance drove from thence the austrian generals Geisrugg and Jahnus, taking possession of it the 17th of june. In the night between that day and the 18th, Laudohn made a very brisk attack upon Glatz, but was repulsed with considerable loss; and finding that the siege was like to be of longer continuation, than he at first expected, and that general Fouquet would have it in his power, from his situation at Landshut, to interrupt his operations; he determined, before he advanced further in it, to attack Fouquet.

Pursuant to this resolution, he called in all his detachments, and leaving a small body of troops before Glatz, marched towards Landshut. Fouquet being desirous to maintain that post, took all measures immediately for making a good defence. He was obliged however, to send off general Ziethen, with four battalions and two squadrons towards Frauenstein, in order to preserve a communication with Schweidnitz, as well as major general Grant on the other side, with some cavalry; so that there were but few generals left with him, and part of his corps, the whole of which was so much weaker than the austrians. On the 23d, at about two o'clock in the morning, he was attacked by general Laudohn, at the head of all his forces. The prussian troops were intrenched on several heights, defended by redoubts; it was not till
after

after a very vigorous resistance, that Laudohn made himself master of three of them ; general Fouquet threw himself into the two which remained in his possession ; where he was twice summoned on the part of general Laudohn to surrender with his men, which he refused complying with. In consequence of which, he was again attacked with great fury, and the austrians being so much superior, at last penetrated into the redoubts, which had been defended in a most gallant manner, for near six hours successively. General Fouquet, after having made as brave a defence as was possible in his circumstances, and having received two wounds, fell into the hands of the austrians ; and victory declared for general Laudohn. The loss on either side in this battle was never exactly known ; but it fell very heavy on the prussians, whose whole army, according to the austrian account, was all either killed, wounded, or taken prisoners ; but this is vastly exaggerated. General Fouquet was at the head of not above 15,000 men, when the action happened, and it was supposed, that out of this number, not above 7 or 8000 escaped. Laudohn's army amounted before the battle to above 30,000 men ; his victory was quite complete, all the camp, artillery, and baggage of the prussians falling into his hands.

No sooner was his prussian majesty informed of this unfortunate affair, than he clearly saw the necessity of his affairs would oblige him to march into Silesia. The victorious general Laudohn, it was feared, would speedily advance against Schweidnitz or Breslau ; and as his operations would, in all probability be seconded by a formidable army of russians, who were in full march for Silesia, prince Henry's force was insufficient to defend that province against such numerous enemies. These circumstances had such weight with his majesty, that he determined, if possible, to relieve that province, the favourite part of his

dominions. But many difficulties lay in his way, which rendered his march extremely hazardous. Marshal Daun, when he heard of Laudohn's victory, immediately foresaw that the king would endeavour to march into Silesia, and took such measures as he thought were most likely to prevent his being able to effect it. He detached general Laschy with a strong corps to take post at Lichtenber; and distributed strong bodies of troops at all the defiles in Lusatia, which lead into Silesia; the situation of his own army, in his strong camp at Reichenberg, he knew would enable him to follow the king very speedily, in case his majesty was to attempt the march which he expected he would make.

Count Daun was not mistaken in this supposition; for the king leaving a strong corps in his camp near Meissen, under general Hulsen, began his march into Lusatia the 2d of july, crossing the river Pulsnitz, at the bridge at Cracau, and encamping that day on the heights near the town: His majesty designing to attack general Laschy, marched on the 4th to Koinnsbruck, in his way to Lichtenberg; but Laschy, on having notice of his approach, retired. The prussian army crossed the Sprehe, near Gross Dobzan, the 6th; and from thence occupied the camp at Doberschütz, about half a german mile from Bautzen.

It was at this place, that his majesty received advice on the 8th, that marshal Daun was at Gorlitz, and that his army was on the march for Lauban. That general had laid his plan so well, that he had gained two marches upon the king, and posted himself between Silesia and the prussian army. His prussian majesty directly perceived how excessively difficult it would be for him to force his way through a country, in which every defile was guarded, and commanded by a superior army, under an able general. Any other man would have been embarrassed with these

these circumstances; he found he could not relieve Silesia; and to remain inactive in Lusatia, would be fatal to his affairs every where; add to these, it was so critical a conjuncture, that not a moment's time must be lost. His majesty's genius extricated him from these pressing difficulties, and changed a misfortune at least to the probability of gaining an advantage. In the morning of the 8th, he was acquainted with Daun's march, and in the evening he determined to make a forced march back into Saxony, and endeavour to possess himself of Dresden, before the marshal could arrive to succour it. At 8 o'clock the tents of the army were struck, and it repassed the Sprehe near Bautzen, moving the next day by Bischoffswerda to Harta, and arrived after a most expeditious march, the 13th, at Grunau near Dresden; encamping in two lines, one towards Pirna, and the other towards Dresden. General Macguire, an Irishman, who had raised himself from the station of a common soldier by his bravery, commanded in Dresden. His majesty sent him a summons by one of his aid de camps to surrender, which he gallantly refused. In the night between the 14th and 15th the trenches were opened, and the batteries being completed, began to play the 18th. The next day marshal Daun appeared with his army, which he had strengthened by great detachments, drawn from Bohemia and Silesia. The prince of Holstein, with part of the prussian army occupied the posts of Nauendorff and Weisse Hirsch, in order to block up Dresden on the other side of the Elbe; after the approach of Daun this corps was in danger of being surrounded by the superior numbers of the austrians; so the king ordered the prince to repass the Elbe. Marshal Daun, having by this means a free communication with Dresden, and being come up to encamp with his army at a place called the Granges, and having also caused two bridges of boats to be built over the Elbe; the

king of Prussia found that there was no further prospect of any success in the siege, and accordingly determined to raise it the 21st. That night marshal Daun threw sixteen battalions into the town, which early in the morning of the 22d made a general sally on the besiegers, with design to get possession of their cannon, but they were driven back with considerable loss. His majesty after withdrawing all his artillery from the siege, removed his head quarters from Grunau to Leubnitz. In this manner he was disappointed in his expectations of being able to make himself master of Dresden, before Daun came up; and general Macguire had a much stronger garrison than the king of Prussia imagined: nevertheless, we cannot but admire the activity of his majesty's genius, which always prompts him, when his affairs wear but a bad face, to try every expedient possible to extricate himself from such perplexing difficulties.

In the mean time general Laudohn, after gaining the victory of Landshut, returned with great expedition to resume the siege of Glatz. The artillery was all placed on the batteries in the night of the 25th, and began a very brisk fire the next morning; which was designed to cover an attack on one of the outworks, which was made that morning: and succeeded so well, by being vigorously supported, that in a short time the garrison surrendered at discretion. The austrians found a large magazine in the place; and it proved an acquisition of great importance.

Laudohn had no sooner possessed himself of Glatz, than he prepared to march against Breslau; which yielded him the prospect of an easy conquest; the king of Prussia was in Saxony, and prince Henry encamped at a great distance from that city, waiting the approach of the russians; so that he had great reason to expect Breslau would fall before any succour could be received. Moved by the fair appearance

ance of success; he pushed forward very expeditiously towards that city, and arrived before it on the 30th of july. Major general Javentzien, the prussian commandant, was several times summoned to surrender *, but as constantly refused it; and Laudohn's heavy artillery not being come up, he began on the first of august a very severe bombardment, which reduced the king of Prussia's palace and several other public buildings to ashes, as well as the finest streets in the city.

Marshall Soltikoff, at the head of a numerous army of russians, was at this time advancing briskly, as if with intent to join Laudohn. The motions of this general induced his royal highness prince Henry, who commanded an army of about 40,000 prussians, encamped at Gleissen, to march to Glogau. The 27th of july he broke up his camp, and took the rout to Strapel, Reitscutz, Pudligar, and Linden; on his arrival at Glogau, he learnt that Breslau was besieged; and instantly determined to make forced marches to relieve it. The rapidity of his motions on this occasion was such, as had distinguished the prussian arms. On the 3d of august he arrived at Parchwitz, from whence an austrian general with 2000 men retired on his approach. The next day, the prince's vanguard arrived at Neumark; and he was there informed, that Laudon had raised the siege of Breslau, and retired with great precipitation to Canth. The prussian army moved the 5th to Lissa, and the next day crossed the Elbe at Breslau, having marched no less than 25 german miles in five days: detachments were sent out to harraß general Laudohn in his retreat, and some hundreds of austrians were taken, with a major general. Nothing but the great expedition used by prince Henry in his march could have saved Breslau, for the russians on the 6th were but five miles from that city; the prudent use of an im-

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portant

* Vide appendix.

portant height stopped their progress; and his royal highness by his admirable motions was able to oblige them to retreat to a greater distance from Breslau, and protected that city from the attack of general Laudohn, who retreated towards Schweidnitz.

While his affairs were in this critical situation in Silesia, the king of Prussia was attentive to every motion of marshal Daun, and as his presence was much wanted in that province, he determined to take the first opportunity of marching into it. On the 30th of july he decamped, and took the rout of Meissen, without giving Daun any reason to suspect his designs. The 2d of august he arrived at Dalgwitz, and the next day took the road to Silesia; the 7th, his army reached Buntzlau, having marched no less than 200 miles in five days; which expedition is astonishing. Marshal Daun on the first notice of the king's march, moved towards Silesia, to stop him, but although he got to Bautzen the 1st, yet he was not able to prevent his prussian majesty's entering Silesia before him; he took possession of the camp of Lignitz the 10th. This march of the prussian army, if maturely considered, will appear very surprising. All Lusatia, through which it lay, was in the hands of his enemies; general Reid at the head of one army, and Lascy with another, lying on each side of him; general Beck commanded a third in his front; and marshal Daun's parties were continually at his rear. So surrounded with enemies, his army, encumbered with above 2000 waggons, passed the Elbe, the Spree, the Neiss, the Queiss, and the Bober, without any loss; which may possibly be reckoned one of the most remarkable pieces of generalship ever performed; more particularly if we consider that Daun, at the head of an army much superior in number, had no other employment besides preventing his majesty's penetrating into Silesia.

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The king on his arrival at Lignitz, found that the enemies troops occupied all the country between Parchwitz and Cossendau; so that marshal Daun with his army formed the centre, and occupied the heights of Wahlstadt and Hochkirk. M. Laudohn with his army covered the ground between Jeschkendorff and Coschitz: general Naukendorf that of the heights of Parchwitz; and M. de Beck, who formed the left, extended his troops beyond Cossendan. His majesty intended to have passed the Katzbach, and the Scharzwasser, but this advantageous position of the enemy prevented him; he therefore marched in the night of the 11th to turn them, and to reach Javer: for this purpose, the columns of the army was got as far as Hohendorff, from whence a new camp at Pransnitz was discovered, and his majesty received advice, that it was M. de Laschy's corps, which was just arrived from Lauban; the prussian army prepared immediately to attack him; but M. de Laschy made his dispositions with so much skill, and knew so well how to avail himself of the advantages the ground gave him, that he retreated to marshal Daun, without the king's being able to attack him with any prospect of success. His majesty finding that the attempt of turning the enemy was impracticable; returned with his army on the 13th back to the camp at Lignitz.

The king no sooner arrived there, than he perceived how disadvantageous it would be to wait for the enemy in that camp. He foresaw that M. de Laschy would have advanced upon his right, that marshal Daun, would have probably attacked his front, and M. de Laudohn have fallen upon his left, possessing himself at the same time of the heights of Plaffendorff. These considerations induced his majesty on the 14th, to take possession of those heights, drawing up his army in order of battle upon them. This motion changed the scene of operation, and disconcerted

certed the dispositions of the austrian generals. Scarce had the prussians taken this new position, when they were informed, about two o'clock in the morning, that M. Laudohn was in full march towards them. Whereupon the prussian army separated into two bodies; the right remained upon the ground where it had been formed, to observe Daun. Sixteen battalions and thirty squadrons turned about, in order to fall upon the corps under Laudohn.

According to the plan on which that general acted, he was to advance by those heights, where the prussian army was drawn up; and he expected only to meet with some weak detachments there. About three o'clock in the morning, his advanced parties attacked those of the prussians, and made them give way, and Laudon to push this success, hastened the movement of his main body, thinking to get possession of the heights without opposition. Whilst he was endeavouring to do this, day-light came on; and to his great astonishment discovered the prussian army drawn up in excellent order. This was an unexpected stroke, but it was then too late to retreat; therefore he prepared in the best manner he could for action. The battle lasted but two hours; Laudohn was obliged to retire before the superior abilities of the prussian monarch; and yielded him a complete victory. The loss of the conquerors was very inconsiderable; but that of the austrians amounted in killed, wounded, and prisoners to upwards of 10,000 men. Two generals, and more than eighty officers were amongst the latter. Eighty two pieces of cannon, and twenty three pair of colours were taken*.

This victory, for which his prussian majesty was so much indebted to his own genius, in a great measure changed the face of affairs in Silesia. For although he was not able to oblige the austrians and russians to evacuate that province, yet he defeated their particular

* Vide appendix.

ticular designs against Breslau and Schweidnitz, and prevented the generals Soltikoff and Laudohn from joining their forces. The king won the battle of Merschwitz with much such a stratagem as prince Ferdinand used so successfully at Minden. Immediately after the action, his majesty marched to Parchwitz, and from thence to Neumark, by which means he opened a communication with prince Henry, and effectually covered Breslau. Daun seemed for some days to have a design of besieging Schweidnitz, but the king by a masterly movement towards that town prevented him from executing it.

It is now time to give an account of the operations of the army under the command of his serene highness duke Ferdinand of Brunswick, which acted against the french, commanded by marshal Broglio : the actions performed by either of these armies for some months were of but little importance ; nor can this be wondered at, when we consider, that the only object of duke Ferdinand's operations was to prevent the french from possessing themselves of the electorate of Hanover ; and as his serene highness was at the head of a very fine army, we are not to suppose that the french general would be able to force him to a battle, under disadvantageous circumstances. It was the middle of may before the allies were out of their cantonments, nor were the french earlier in the field ; duke Ferdinand's troops were encamped the end of that month at Fritzlar, where the head quarters were established. The generals Inhoff and Gilfoe commanding each a separate corps, the first at Kirchaynon on the Ohme, and the latter upon the Fulda near Hirschfield. The head quarters of the french army had been fixed during the winter at Franckfort ; but about this time their detachments advanced towards Gießen and Marpourg. The count de St. Germain commanded a strong corps of french on the Rhine, near Keyserwert, and general Sporken at the head of
a body

a body of hanoverians was opposed to him, encamping at Dulmen.

Duke Ferdinand opened the campaign with some successful attempts to streighten the quarters of the french. Towards the end of may he drove them from Butzbach, and seized their magazines in that town; and detached the hereditary prince with near 20,000 men into the county of Fulda, which corps cleared that country of the enemy's troops. In opposition to these motions marshal Broglio determined to advance; and accordingly having called in his detachments, he encamped the 28th of june at Neustadt; and laid siege to Marpourg and Dillenburg; the former surrendered the 30th of june, and the latter the 16th of july.

The french army was so much superior in numbers to that of duke Ferdinand, that his serene highness was unable to prevent their advancing; the 8th of july, marshal Broglio quitted his camp at Neustadt, and marched towards Franckenberg, and a strong corps at the same time, under M. de St. Germain, advanced towards Brillon and Corbach. Duke Ferdinand, who had been encamped near Treyfa, also marched his army the 9th, to the neighbourhood of Wildungen, in order to prevent the enemy from penetrating further by their new motions. His advanced corps under the hereditary prince of Brunswick, was sent forwards as far as Saxenhausen, after having been reinforced with some battalions and some squadrons, under major general Griffin. The allied army resumed its march early the next morning, and the hereditary prince at the same time advanced from Saxenhausen towards Corbach, where he found the french army already formed; but judging them not to be very numerous, and their whole force against him not to exceed 10,000 foot, and 17 squadrons, he formed a design of driving that corps, which was commanded by the french general

M. Wal-

M. Waldner, back; and thus an engagement was brought on, which became extremely hot about two o'clock in the afternoon. The french being continually reinforced with fresh troops, and having the superiority of numbers, and a large artillery, the prince found it impossible to dislodge them from their post; and as there was no necessity of maintaining that which he himself occupied (the main army being arrived at Saxenhausen) and it not being practicable for them to come up in time to sustain the hereditary prince in his post, orders were sent him by prince Ferdinand to rejoin the army, part of which was then formed. Accordingly he made his dispositions for a retreat, which was attended with some confusion among some of the best battalions and squadrons. The french observing this, pressed very briskly upon the allied troops, both with their artillery and a large body of cavalry. The consequences of this might have been very bad, had it not been for the great bravery of the hereditary prince, who putting himself at the head of one of Bland's squadrons, and Howard's regiment of dragoons, charged the french so furiously as to enable the infantry to make a safe retreat. Fifteen pieces of cannon however fell into the hands of the conquerors; twenty by the french account, who also assert, that the allies lost 3000 men, dead on the spot, besides 800 wounded or prisoners; whereas the whole of the loss is calculated by the London Gazette, at about 500 men, most probably both these accounts were false. General count Kilmansegge, major general Griffin, the two british battalions of Brudenel and Carr; particularly one squadron of Bland's, commanded by major Mill, and Howard's regiment of dragoons, all distinguished themselves remarkably; and the troops in general shewed great good will and alacrity. The hereditary prince was wounded in the shoulder, but not dangerously. The success of the french in this action was
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of very little consequence to them, in any other respect than that of raising the spirit of their troops, who regarded this good beginning as an omen of future success.

Never was the bravery of any general more conspicuous than that of the hereditary prince in this affair: his well judged and desperate attack on the french troops, covered so effectually the retreat of his infantry, that the enemy themselves could not but admire the stroke which stopped their career. His highness soon after had an opportunity of revenging this defeat.

Marshal Broglio having formed the design of possessing himself of Ziegenhayn, detached a corps for that purpose under major general Glanbitz, consisting of six battalions, and the regiment of Berchini. Duke Ferdinand, on receiving advice of this motion, detached the hereditary prince from the army at Saxenhausen, the 14th at night, for Fritzlar, at the head of six battalions; in his way he was joined by general Luckner, with his regiment of dragoons, and Elliot's light horse, which was just arrived from England. M. de Glaubitz was encamped at Erxdorff; in perfect security, and had neglected to place the proper advanced posts to prevent a surprise. The prince having advanced pretty near the enemy, reconnoitred; and then made a detour of near two leagues, with part of his force, in order to gain the left flank of the french, who thinking themselves very secure, were surprised in their camp. Their artillery, baggage, and tents being soon taken, they retired by Langenstein. His serene highness putting himself at the head of Elliot's light dragoons, and some other cavalry, pursued the enemy, and overtaking them on their march in a plain, he charged and broke through them four or five different times, and separating 500 men from the body, obliged them to lay down their arms; and surrounding M. Glaubitz

Glaubitx at the head of the remainder of his corps, he summoned him to surrender, which was accordingly complied with. Berchini's regiment was likewise either entirely taken or cut to pieces, by Luckner's hussars. Major general Glaubitx and the prince of Anhalt, a brigadier, were amongst the prisoners. Nine pair of colours (almost all taken by Elliot's regiment) five pieces of artillery and a hautbitzer, were taken; the prisoners amounted to 177 officers, and 2482 private men. The loss of the allies was inconsiderable, not amounting to above 200 men killed and wounded.

This advantage was not attended with any great consequences, except just the loss of men, to the french; and what was worse, the loss of reputation, particularly as M. Glaubitx was surprised in such a scandalous manner. It had one effect in common with many other enterprises of the hereditary prince, to display still clearer every day his great abilities in the art of war. Elliot's regiment of light horse, which was but just raised, distinguished themselves extremely; and the infantry shewed throughout great courage and good will to march on and engage, though harrassed and almost exhausted by the fatigues of their march. Major Erskine in particular, who commanded Elliot's greatly distinguished himself*.

This action was not of consequence enough to prevent the french from advancing: Duke Ferdinand was yet obliged to retreat; he bent his march towards Cassel, and leaving a garrison in that town, retreated towards Warbourg. Marshal Broglie formed a design of cutting off his communication with Westphalia: to compass this end, he detached the chevalier de Muy, at the head of the reserve of the french army, amounting to about 35,000 men, to cross the river Dymel, and extend himself down the side of it; while the marshal himself advanced with the main
army

* Vide appendix.

army towards duke Ferdinand's camp at Kalle, in the mid way, between Cassel and Warbourg; and on the 30th his serene highness passed the Dymel with his army, between Liebenaw and Dringelbourg. The hereditary prince had passed that river the day before, and took post between Liebenaw and Corbeke, at the head of 24 battalions and 22 squadrons; and he immediately reconnoitred the position of M. de Muy; after which it was agreed, that the hereditary prince, assisted by general Sporcke, should turn the left of the french, while duke Ferdinand advanced with his army upon their front; which was done with all possible success, the french being attacked almost in the same instant by M. Sporcke, and the hereditary prince, in flank and in rear. The army marched with the greatest diligence to make the attack in front; but the infantry could not get up in time; general Waldegrave, at the head of the british pressed their march as much as possible: no troops ever shewed greater eagerness to engage; many of the men, from the heat of the weather, and overstraining themselves to get on, through morassy and very difficult ground, suddenly dropped down on their march. The duke observing that the infantry would be too late, gave orders for lord Granby to advance, with the cavalry of the right; general Moylton commanded under him, and although the distance from the enemy was five miles, yet they made so much expedition in bringing it up, on a full trot, as to have an opportunity of sharing in the glory of the day. The french cavalry, though very numerous, retreated as soon as that of the allies advanced to charge them, excepting only three squadrons, that kept their ground with some firmness, but were soon broke. A part of the english cavalry then fell upon the enemy's infantry, which suffered extremely, particularly a regiment of swiss. These attacks were seconded in a surprising manner by the english artillery, com-
manded

manded by captain Philips, who brought it up on a gallop. His serene highness, seeing the french begin to give way, ordered an attack to be made on the town of Warbourg; on which they retired with the utmost precipitation, leaving about 1500 men dead upon the field of battle, together with ten pieces of cannon, some colours, and about 1500 prisoners. The loss on the side of the allies was very moderate, it fell chiefly on the brave battalion of Maxwell's english grenadiers, which did wonders. Lord Grandby greatly distinguished himself.

The consequences of this battle were not so great as might have been expected; duke Ferdinand was still obliged to retreat: nor could he prevent the french from entering the electorate, and making themselves masters of Gottingen and Munden. An universal consternation once more seized the unhappy inhabitants of that exhausted country; every thing depended on the abilities of duke Ferdinand: he was at the head of a fine army; but that of the french was much the most numerous. Marshal Broglio advanced his detachments for some days; but by the good conduct of his serene highness, he was not able to push on with the main of the french army; so the electorate was saved by his excellent management. Marches, countermarches, and the making choice of posts proper for covering a country against a greatly superior army, perhaps require greater abilities than many battles; but the generality of the world seldom understand the one so perfectly as the other, as they are of less eclat, though not less importance. I shall here leave the operations of these armies, for the present, and take a view of the military affairs in other quarters, of no less consequence than those of which I have been treating.

C H A P. XXVIII.

*Campaign in North America. Expedition under general
Amberst against Montreal. Army embarks at Oswego.
Isle Royale surrenders. Troops land at Montreal. Ge-
neral Murray arrives there from Quebec, and colonel
Haviland from Isle aux Noix. Montreal capitulates.
Canada conquered. Affairs in Germany. French sur-
prised at Zierenberg. Battle of Camper. Armies go
into winter quarters. Remarks on the campaign.
Conclusion of the campaign between the prussians and
austrians, &c. Action at Strebla. Motions of the
russians. Lay siege to Colberg. Raised by general
Werner. The swedes driven back. Berlin surrenders
to the russians. Plundered. Their inhuman ravages.
King of Prussia marches into Saxony. Battle of Torgau.
Saxony recovered. Silesia evacuated by the austrians.
Russians retire into Poland. Remarks on the campaign.
Affairs in England. Great preparations at Portsmouth.
The expedition fleet countermanded. Death of his ma-
jesty king George the second. Accession of his present
majesty king George the third. King's speech. Re-
flections.*

NOTHING but the unbounded trade of Great Britain could have enabled the nation to maintain so expensive a war. The parliament had in the beginning of the year, voted upwards of fifteen millions * sterling for the public expence. Enormous as these grants were, none but the discontented repined

* For the army,	6886000 l.
For the navy,	4072000
Sundrys,	4545000
	<hr/>
	£ 15503000

at

at the credit of the government; for it was found, that the money granted by parliament was applied to those services for which it was designed by the people; and the abilities of the ministers were such, that the war was every where successful, and the strength of the nation bent against the most national objects, and employed in the most advantageous manner.

The british arms had been particularly victorious the last campaign in north America; but still the French were not entirely conquered. Montreal, Trois Rivières, and several other fortresses remained yet in the hands of the enemy; but general Amherst, his majesty's commander in chief in that country, had made the necessary preparations in the winter, and spring of the year, for opening the campaign with vigour. His excellency repaired to Oswego the 9th of july; which place was the rendezvous of his army, as the plan of their operations was to fall down the river St. Lawrence, and attack Montreal. It was the beginning of august before all the troops were arrived, but on the 10th, all the army embarked; the rear and the provincials were under the command of brigadier general Gage. About 60 miles from the lake Ontario, down the river St. Lawrence, is situated the isle Royale, whereon was built a strong fort: It was necessary to be master of this island, before the troops could proceed on their voyage; accordingly general Amherst attacked the fortress in a resolute manner, with his vessels, and batteries on shore, so that he got possession of it by capitulation, the 23d of august, two days after the first firing of his batteries.

At this place Mr. Amherst waited no longer than was necessary to repair the fort; on the 31st he proceeded on his voyage; the difficulty of the navigation occasioned his losing, on the 4th of september, 29 batteaus of men, and 17 of artillery and stores,

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besides 17 whale boats, and one row galley staved, 84 men by this unhappy accident were lost. The army landed on the island of Montreal in good order the 6th, and without opposition; and the next day, general Murray arrived with part of the garrison of Quebec, and a naval force under captain Deane; and with such extraordinary foresight and judgement had general Amherst planned this expedition, that colonel Haviland, who commanded a third corps (that was in possession of the isle aux Moix, in lake Champlain,) reached Montreal the next day. History can hardly produce a more striking instance of excellent military conduct in three separate expeditions against one place, by different routs, without any communication with each other, and through such a dangerous and difficult country, meeting almost at the same time at the destined rendezvous.

Before general Amherst could raise a single battery, the marquis de Vaudreuil offered to capitulate; and accordingly, on the 10th, the articles of capitulation*, not only for Montreal, but the whole province of Canada, were drawn up and signed: that immense country was surrendered to the king of Great Britain, and the british troops took immediate possession of all the fortresses in it, the french garrisons of which, were bound not to serve during the remainder of the war; the civil and religious rights of the inhabitants were guarantied to them. The 30th article of the capitulation contains perhaps the most insolent demand, ever made on such an occasion: "If by treaty of peace Canada should remain in the power of his britannick majesty, his most christian majesty shall continue to name the bishop of the colony, who shall always be of the roman communion, and under whose authority the people shall exercise the roman religion." This impudent demand was refused by Mr. Amherst with the indignation it deserved.

In

• Vide appendix.

In this glorious and decisive manner was the campaign in north America concluded; that country in which the enemy had been so extremely formidable in the beginning of the war, as to baffle all the attempts of a nation so much superior in that part of the world, was now completely conquered. The unparalleled success, which had here so constantly attended the british arms, during the two last campaigns, entirely wiped out the memory of those repeated defeats, and disgraces that we suffered in the beginning of the contest. Nor could the consequences of our victories be so great and advantageous in any other part of the globe as this. I have already explained the infinite inconveniencies which our colonies sustained from this country's being in the hands of the french; but by its conquest they were secured; and the british dominion and trade extended over one of the most extensive, and perhaps the finest countries in the universe.

The campaign in Germany between the allied and french armies, was not concluded with any great eclat. But there happened some actions, which though of no great importance, yet deserve to be mentioned. The beginning of september, marshal Broglio detached 20,000 men to make a grand forage in the neighbourhood of Geismar; but prince Ferdinand having received previous intelligence of their design, marched in person, with a corps of troops to oppose them; and though his serene highness was much inferior in numbers to the french, yet he took his precautions so well, by occupying some advantageous heights, and placing artillery on them, that he rendered the enemy's attempt totally ineffectual, notwithstanding a large part of their army was in motion to cover their foragers. The very same day, the hereditary prince, who had behaved with so much gallantry in several actions, which I have already related, being informed that a body of 1200 horse, and as many

foot of the french troops, were cantoned at Zierenberg, and being very near their grand army, thought themselves in perfect security ; he formed a design to surprize them. Accordingly, his serene highness gave orders for six battalions and eight squadrons, to take different roads, and post themselves at the avenues to the town, which being performed in great order, it was completely surrounded before the enemy had the least intimation of their danger. Part of the grenadiers marching in profound silence towards one of the gates, were discovered by their trampling over the gardens, and fired upon by the garrison ; whereupon, they rushed on, pushed the piquets, and having killed the guard at the gate, poured into the town, and drove every thing before them, at about two o'clock in the morning. Never was a more complete surprize. The expedition concluded with the carrying off M. de Norman, brigadier, who commanded the volunteers of Dauphine, and M. de Comeiras, colonel of those of Clermont, with about 40 more officers, and 400 private men ; the number of killed and wounded was also very considerable, from an ill judged resistance of those that were in the houses ; the party was obliged to retire with these advantages when day came on, as they might have been cut off by the french at Warbourg.

Prince Ferdinand to finish the campaign as advantageously as possible, by extending his quarters in the winter, and opening a communication with such countries on the lower Rhine, as might serve to furnish his army with forage, &c. and possibly to compass another end, which will be explained hereafter, detached the hereditary prince towards the end of september, into the duchy of Cleves, to clear that and the neighbouring countries of the french troops, and to besiege Wesel. The 29th, part of his serene highness's corps passed the Rhine at Roeroort, and scoured

scoured the country to Rhynberg and Wesel; and other detachments took possession of Rees and Emmerick. The 30th, the hereditary prince himself came before Wesel, and by the 3d of october, it was completely invested; the same day Cleves surrendered to another of his detachments, the garrison of 500 men being made prisoners of war.

His serene highness pushed on the siege of Wesel with as much briskness as possible; marshal Broglio thought it an object of such importance, that he resolved to raise the siege; for this end, he detached M. de Castries, with a strong corps towards the lower Rhine, which, when it had joined the straggling detachments in the country, amounted to 30 battalions, and 38 squadrons: by forced marches he arrived at Rhynberg the 14th. The hereditary prince had a party at that place, who were obliged to retire, on being attacked by the french, although the prince himself was at their head; the enemy advanced and encamped behind the convent of Campen: his serene highness formed the design of surprising M. de Castries in the night: accordingly he began his march at ten o'clock, but before he could reach the french camp, he found it necessary to overpower that corps that occupied the convent, about half a league in the front of it; in this attack the firing alarmed M. de Castries, who immediately put his troops hastily under arms. He was however attacked and drove back twice. A most terrible and well supported fire of musketry ensued; which lasted from five in the morning 'till about nine at night, without ceasing. At length his serene highness seeing, that it would be to no purpose to persist in the attempt of driving the enemy out of the wood, of which they had possessed themselves, and his infantry having spent all their ammunition, ordered a retreat; which was executed without a brisk pursuit from the enemy. The loss of the allies in killed, wounded, and

prisoners, amounted to near 1500 men. The hereditary prince had his horse killed under him, and received a slight hurt by the same shot in his leg. Lieut. colonel Pitt, and lord Downe were wounded and prisoners. Lieut. general Waldegrave, major general Griffin, lord George Lenox, and several other officers distinguished themselves greatly. Major general Elliot, and several other officers of distinction were wounded. M. de Segur, lieut. general, M. de Wangen, brigadier general, with many officers, and some hundreds of private men of the enemy were made prisoners; and their loss on the whole was reckoned more considerable than that of the allies. This action happened on the 15th.

His serene highness was obliged in consequence of this action to raise the siege of Wesel, and on the 23d he fixed his head quarters at Brugzen, at which place he remained encamped sometime, watching the motions of M. de Castries; but nothing material happened between them. Duke Ferdinand attempted to finish the campaign with the possession of Gottingen, the only place in the electorate of Hanover, that was in the hands of the french; but after some unsuccessful skirmishes, he was obliged to withdraw his troops from before it; and the heavy rains having made the roads extremely bad, he distributed his men into winter quarters. His own head quarters he established at Eimbec, lord Granby's were fixed at Paderborn, and the hereditary prince's at Munster, the troops occupying all the adjacent country. The french went into quarters of cantonment about the same time as the allies; marshal Broglio's head quarters were at Cassel, and his army was distributed towards the upper Rhine. M. de Castrie's corps was cantoned on the lower Rhine from Cleves to Cologne. Although this campaign between the french and allies did not end with the same eclat as that of 1759; yet duke Ferdinand with a force much inferior to that of his enemy,

my, was enabled by his great generalship to keep the french out of the electorate, the most material aim he had in view. Otherwise indeed, the campaign was rather unfortunate, as marshal Broglie, from the time he took the field to his going into winter quarters, kept constantly advancing; and there were several unsuccessful skirmishes during the course of it: but when we consider, that the great end of the war was answered, the preventing the french from possessing themselves of Hanover, and consequently of attacking the king of Prussia, and also the great superiority of the enemy, we may justly pronounce it successful.

In my last chapter, I left the king of Prussia, after the battle of Merschwitz, covering Silesia against the austrian army, under marshal Daun. His majesty having left a strong corps in Saxony, under general Hulsen, the duke of Deux Ponts, who commanded the army of the empire in Saxony, formed a design of falling on him, in the absence of the prussian grand army. For this end, he collected some austrian detachments together, and joining them to his own army, endeavoured to cut off Hulsen's communication with Torgau, who was posted at Meissen. The prussian general penetrating into this design, marched on the 17th of august to Strehla; and on the 20th was attacked by the combined army, which contained more than double the number of his men: by the good conduct of Hulsen, and the bravery of his men, the duke of Deux Ponts was defeated, with the loss of above 3000 men killed, wounded, and prisoners; that of the conquerors did not exceed 500 men. The prussian general being informed, that the duke of Wurtemberg, at the head of 10,000 men, was on his march to join the duke of Deux Ponts, retreated to Torgau, where he remained encamped.

His prussian majesty continually found new enemies springing up, in every part of his dominions. The russians, after prince Henry had defeated their design upon Breslau, seemed to lay aside the thoughts of prosecuting the campaign in Silesia, but in Pomerania they acted with fresh vigor; a considerable body of them sat down before Colberg, the beginning of september, while a russian fleet blocked up the port by sea. A vast army of these barbarians had once before endeavoured in vain to master this little town; and they were again foiled in their attempt. General Goltze, who commanded a small prussian army near Glogau, that watched the motions of the russian army in Silesia, detached general Werner with 6000 men to raise the siege. Werner made one of the most astonishing marches, for expedition, ever known; he reached Colberg from Glogau, which is above 250 miles in 11 days; and arriving before the place, on the 18th, the russians though much superior in number, raised the siege with the greatest precipitation, abandoning their tents, cannon, ammunition, baggage, forage, and provisions in very great quantities, to the prussians. This was not the only service performed by Werner; the swedes had, towards the end of the campaign, advanced into Brandenburg, and made themselves masters of some considerable towns, general Stutterheim, who commanded against them, being too weak to stop their progress, Werner marched against them, and obliged them to retire into their usual winter quarters at Stralsund.

His prussian majesty by some masterly movements, after the battle of Merschwitz obliged marshal Daun to retire among the mountains on the frontiers of Silesia; and as this confined situation of his army stopped the operations both of the austrian and russian armies, the russians were prevailed on to march
into

into Brandenburg, and attack Berlin; hoping by that means to change the theatre of the war.

For this end the russian generals Czernichef and Tottleben, were detached with upwards of 20,000 men, and general Laschy was sent against Berlin with 14000 from the austrian army. The whole russian army followed at a small distance, to sustain this grand enterprize. But each party wanting to get before the other, general Tottleben, without waiting the arrival of the large corps of troops, appeared on the 3d of october before Berlin, with 2000 light troops and some foot. He immediately summoned it, and upon its refusing to surrender, he threw into the city some hundreds of royal grenades, bombs, and red hot balls, and at the same time made three assaults on one of the gates, but was repelled every time, and the flames which broke out in several parts were happily extinguished. The russian general finding all his efforts vain, retired. Mean while, prince Eugene of Wurtemberg, and general Hulsen, had come to the assistance of the capital, and would probably have saved it, had not count Czernichef and general Laschy with their respective corps came up. At the same time the grand russian army arrived at Franckfort on the Oder. The two prussian generals, seeing the great superiority of the enemy, would not expose the city to the precarious issue of a battle. Accordingly they withdrew on the 6th to Spandaw, a strong fortress in the neighbourhood. By the capitulation, which the governor and magistrates made with general Tottleben, it was agreed, that the town should be delivered up to the russians; that the garrison of three battalions should be prisoners of war; and that, on paying a contribution of 1,500,000 crowns, and 200,000 as a gratuity to the troops, the city should enjoy full liberty, protection, and safety, while the enemy staid in it.

The

The russian and austrian armies were no sooner in possession of Berlin, than they began to exercise all manner of inhuman barbarities on the innocent inhabitants, in defiance of the capitulation. By the third article it was agreed, that no soldier should be quartered in the city or suburbs; that the light troops should not be permitted even to enter the place: nevertheless, Berlin in a few days was overrun with cossacks, pandours, and every other species of irregular troops, who vied with each other in committing the most enormous outrages. They even lived at discretion, and used the most cruel treatment to force money from their landlords. All the king's palaces, stables, and country seats were desolated, the fine pictures, antique statutes, and rich furniture, with the king's coaches that could not be carried off, were entirely spoilt and demolished. The very graves did not escape the ravages of their merciless invaders, they broke open the vaults, and stripped the dead. Numbers of people of all ages and conditions were beat and cut in a miserable manner, and the women were dishonoured in the very presence of their parents and relations. All the neighbouring towns, and the adjacent country quite to Saxony and Poland was ravaged in this inhuman manner. It would fill volumes to be particular in an account of these infamous actions: but the king of Prussia published a memorial, setting in a clear light, before all Europe, the unmanly conduct of his enemies*.

In the mean time that monarch perceived the necessity of his marching to the defence of his dominions, as there was no force either in Brandenburg or Saxony able to withstand 80,000 russians, who were encamped in the former of those countries. Accordingly his majesty, having called in his detachments, began his march towards Brandenburg; he

* Vide appendix.

bent his course across Lusatia, and arrived at Darm the 20th of october, being followed by marshal Daun at the distance of a few days march. On the king's approach, the russians evacuated Berlin, retiring towards Poland; so that his majesty found himself enabled by their absence to remove the theatre of the war into Saxony. His affairs in that country greatly wanted his presence; the army of the empire, in conjunction with a large body of austrians had made themselves masters of Leipfick, Wittenberg and Torgau, and in short, all Saxony was in the hands of his enemies.

If we consider the state of this monarch's affairs at this period, we shall not wonder much at all Europe's giving him over as lost beyond recovery. An army of 80,000 russians was encamped in his electorate, all Saxony was in the hands of the austrians, part of Silesia was likewise in their possession; and general Laudon, whom Daun had left in that province with a strong corps, threatened the remainder of it; in fine, marshal Daun, at the head of a superior army was ready to maintain affairs in their then state, that he might be ready in the spring to overwhelm the king at once.

His prussian majesty passed the Elbe, the 25th at Coswig, between Wittenberg and Dessau, and having joined the corps of prince Eugene of Wurtemberg, and general Hulsen, he found himself at the head of 80,000 men. Marshal Daun having joined general Laschy, also crossed the Elbe at Torgau, and advanced to Eulenburg, probably with a design to join the army of the empire, which had taken post under Leipfick; but he returning to his old camp at Torgau, the prussian army marched to Eulenburg, and general Hulsen driving the army of the empire from before Leipfick, took possession of that city, and leaving a garrison in it, rejoined the grand army. His majesty now determined, if possible, to force
marshal

marshal Daun to a battle, for he found that nothing but a victory could retrieve the sinking state of his affairs.

To execute this resolution, he marched towards the austrian army, the 2d of november ; his scheme was to make two different attacks on it, so that either his right or left must take the enemy in rear, and close them in. Accordingly his majesty, the next day, with 70 battalions and 50 squadrons of his left wing took one road, and general Ziethen, with 30 battalions and 50 squadrons of the right, marched by another. Marshal Daun, being apprised of the approach of the prussians, by the skirmishing of his advanced parties, formed a front to oppose the king, who began the attack at two in the afternoon : he was received with a brisk fire of 200 pieces of cannon, but was repulsed the first time, after a very smart fire of artillery and small arms, the prussian grenadiers suffering much from the austrian carabineers. His prussian majesty made a second vigorous attack, but his infantry was again repulsed, and forced to give way. The king then ordered two regiments of horse to advance, who threw several austrian regiments into disorder, taking prisoners three others. Upon this attack marshal Daun advanced between sixty and eighty battalions towards Torgau, placing his left at Zinne, and his right at the Elbe. The prince of Holstein went to meet them, with the prussian cavalry, and at first made them give way ; but at the second attack, he was himself forced to retire a little. Nevertheless, he returned a third time to the charge ; and the third line of the prussian infantry attacked the austrian foot, in the vineyards of Supritz, whilst general Ziethen, with their right wing made his attack in their rear. These three attacks being executed at the same time, succeeded ; the whole austrian army was thrown into great disorder, which was encreased by marshal Daun's being wounded in the thigh.

The

The battle ended about a quarter before ten at night, when victory declared for the king of Prussia. The night being uncommonly dark, his majesty had it not in his power to pursue his enemy; so they employed the rest of the night in crossing the Elbe with all speed, on three bridges of boats, which they threw over it at Torgau. Next morning at day break the prussian army entered that town, and seized 20 boats belonging to their bridges.

In this desperate battle, which was one of the bloodiest that had happened since the beginning of the war; the conquerors, by their own account lost 1500 men made prisoners, among whom were two generals, 2500 killed, 4900 wounded. The austrians, according to the same account, lost four generals, 200 officers, and 7000 men; 29 colours, one standard, and 40 pieces of cannon were also taken; but the number of their killed and wounded was never published by the prussians. The Vienna account of this battle, makes their loss 10,000 men killed, wounded and missing; and computes the king of Prussia's in the whole at 20,000 men. But both these calculations were probably false. If they owned their loss to amount to 10,000 men, it is more than probable, it was nearer 20,000, especially if they lost 7000 prisoners. Considering the situation of the armies, and the duration of the engagement, nothing can be more improbable than the conquerors losing double the number of the vanquished. I believe it will not be thought extravagant to calculate the loss of the prussians at 10,000 men, and that of the austrians at 20,000.

I cannot help observing here, how impolitic it was in marshal Daun, to chuse a camp where he might be forced to an action, unless the court of Vienna (which is most likely) gave him positive orders to engage: had he continued on the defensive, the king of Prussia, considering how surrounded he was with enemies

enemies in his very dominions, must have lost many men in the remainder of the campaign, and have opened the ensuing one under the greatest disadvantages. The russians would probably have taken their winter quarters in Brandenburg. And if the allies had began the campaign with vigor, it would have been a miracle, had the king escaped ruin. Indeed the russians played a very wavering game by retiring in so critical a time. It looked as if the court of Petersburg had determined not intirely to demolish the king.

The consequences of this great victory soon appeared. Marshal Daun surrendered the command of the austrian army, as soon as he was wounded, to general Buccow, whose arm being shot off in a few minutes, it devolved on general ODonnel. The new commander retreated with great expedition towards Dresden, and having provided for the safety of that city, took possession of the strong camp at Plauen. All Saxony, except a small tract about Dresden and the austrian camp, fell once more into the hands of his prussian majesty, who advanced with his army to Freyberg. It was too late in the season, his troops had been too much fatigued, and Dresden too strong, for him to attempt making himself master of it. But he detached 10,000 men, under general Forcade, through Thuringia, to assist duke Ferdinand in his operations against the french; but the roads proved so extremely bad, that this party was obliged to halt by the way. He also sent another strong detachment against the russians, who thereupon retired into Poland, and he had the satisfaction to see his dominions freed from that terrible enemy for the remainder of the campaign. Another party of his troops took up their winter quarters in Mecklenburg.

Saxony and Brandenburg were not the only provinces that were cleared of his enemies, by the glorious victory of Torgau. Marshal Daun had left
general

general Laudohn, with a strong corps in Silesia, who making a feint, as if he intended to besiege Schwefelhitze, turned suddenly off, and laid siege to Coid. The prussian general Goltz, who commanded against him, was unable to raise the siege; but the battle of Torgau operated even at that distance. General Laudohn was no sooner informed of it, (and having made an unsuccessful attack) than he raised the siege, and retired into the county of Glatz.

In this great and glorious manner did that magnanimous monarch extricate himself from those formidable and impending dangers, that so lately had surrounded him. All his dominions except those that had been in the hands of his enemies from the very beginning of the war, were now entirely cleared. Much the greatest part of Saxony and Lusatia, as well as Mecklenburg and Swedish Pomerania were in his possession; in these he had it in his power to raise large contributions and recruits for his army; so that his situation at the close of the campaign, was much more advantageous, than it was at the end of the last. During the year 1759, he sustained four capital defeats, and the most fatal of them, the surrender at Maxen, concluded the campaign; whereas in this of 1760, he gained two great and signal victories, and the campaign was finished in the most glorious manner. Indeed it was opened unfortunately by Fouquet's defeat, but the king and prince Henry, by their admirable movements prevented the austrians from receiving any great advantage from their victory. One cannot reflect on the seeming desperate face which this monarch's affairs wore during the greatest part of the campaign, and not be lost in amazement, when we consider the abilities that extricated him from all those perplexing difficulties.

In the mean time, in England the attention of all ranks of people was taken up with the very considerable

derable preparations that had been carrying on at Portsmouth, four months successively ; a large squadron of men of war, with transports sufficient to carry 10,000 men were collected at Spithead. Troops, both horse and foot marched from all parts of England to Portsmouth. Mortars, cannon, bombs, ammunition, and a multitude of all sorts of warlike implements both for the field or a siege, were transported thither. The greatness of these preparations alarmed the french, who expected another visit on some part of their coast, they prepared at all their ports to receive the enemy. About the middle of november, the troops, to the amount of about 8000 men, embarked, general Kingsley was appointed to command in chief by land, and commodore Keppel by sea. The fleet lay wind bound at Spithead some days, and before they could sail, the commanders received counter orders, directing the troops to be disembarked, as the expedition was laid aside 'till the spring. The nation in general was greatly surprised at these sudden orders ; nor could any indifferent person pretend to mention the destination of the armament. Numberless conjectures were formed ; but many circumstances considered, I think there is great reason to suppose that this expedition was designed to co-operate with that of the hereditary prince of Brunswick, when he laid siege to Wesel. 'Tis probable the fleet were to land troops on the beach of Blankenburg, on the coast of the austrian Netherlands, from which place they might have marched to the Maese, to join the hereditary prince, and have enabled him to prosecute the war in those parts with the greater vigor. There are more reasons than one that favour this opinion ; but particularly the small number of troops employed, which was too inconsiderable to make an attempt on the coast of France, and by a detachment of the guards being embarked, and the lateness of the season, it was plain their destination

stination was in Europe. But when it was found that the hereditary prince was prevented from executing his expedition, it might possibly be thought better to lay aside the naval armament till the spring, and then to send it against Martinico.

I come now to mention an event, which filled the nation with grief. His most sacred majesty George II. died on the 25th of october, at his palace at Kensington, in a very sudden manner; his death being occasioned by the bursting of the right ventricle of his heart. He finished a long and happy reign, in the midst of a period which abounded with great events. It is needless to say, that he was a good, a brave, a just, and a virtuous king; his many good qualities adorned the throne on which he sat so long, and which he left at a time so glorious for himself and his subjects. These particulars are too deeply imprinted on the hearts of a grateful people to require an Eulogy. He departed this life in the 77th year of his age, and the 34th of his reign. He was succeeded in the imperial crown of these kingdoms by his grandson, George prince of Wales, our present most gracious sovereign, who was immediately proclaimed with the usual ceremony, under the title of George III. All the lords and others of the late king's privy council were sworn of his majesty's privy council, who was pleased on the first day of his accession to make the following declaration to them:

“ The loss that I and the nation have sustained by the death of the king, my grand-father, would have been severely felt at any time, but coming at so critical a juncture, and so unexpected, it is by many circumstances, augmented; and the weight now falling upon me much increased; I feel my own insufficiency to support it as I wish; but animated by the tenderest affection for this my native country, and

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depending

depending on the advice, experience, and abilities of your lordships, and on the support and assistance of every honest man, I enter with chearfulness into this arduous situation, and shall make it the business of my life, to promote in every thing, the glory and happiness of these kingdoms, to preserve and strengthen both the constitution in church and state; and as I mount the throne in the midst of an expensive, but just and necessary war, I shall endeavour to prosecute it in the manner most likely to bring on an honourable and lasting peace, in concert with my allies."

This declaration was remarkably pleasing to all ranks of people; and the words, "This my native country," could not but be excessively grateful to british ears. His majesty began his reign in the most promising and popular manner. A proclamation was published for the encouragement of piety and virtue, and for preventing and punishing vice, immorality, and profaneness. His royal highness, the duke of York, and the earl of Bute, who was appointed groom of the Stole to his majesty, were sworn into the privy-council, the 27th; and, in a few weeks after, the earl of Huntingdon, who was made master of the horse, the honourable George Townshend, and the lord viscount Royston, were also made privy counsellors. Some other changes and promotions took place, but not of importance. On the 8th of november a proclamation was issued for proroguing the parliament to the 18th of that month, on which day his majesty went with the usual state, attended by the earls of Huntingdon and Bute, to the house of peers, and the commons being at the bar of that house, his majesty made a most gracious speech to them, in which, after mentioning the greatness of the loss the nation had lately sustained, he proceeded

proceeded in these words, " Born and educated in this country, I glory in the name of Briton ; and the peculiar happiness of my life will ever consist in promoting the welfare of a people, whose loyalty, and warm affection to me, I consider as the greatest and most permanent security of my throne." What words could be more pleasing to a british parliament than this declaration ? the lords, in their address have this paragraph. " We are penetrated with the con-
 " descending and endearing manner, in which your
 " majesty has expressed your satisfaction, in having
 " received your birth and education amongst us.
 " What a lustre does it cast on the name of Briton,
 " when you, sir, are pleased to esteem it amongst your
 " glories*." His majesty's whole speech was extremely affectionate and popular ; and the address of the lords and commons as dutiful and loyal.

The period at which his majesty came to the throne was so extremely brilliant for Great Britain, that his accession promised a reign equally glorious to himself and advantageous to his subjects. He ascended the throne at a time when his kingdoms were engaged in a truly national and fortunate war. He had the happiness to see faction banished from home, and his arms victorious abroad. That unparalleled unanimity which took place among all ranks of people, when the odious names of Whig and Tory were no more, but when every one was desirous to be distinguished by no other title but that of Briton ; then it was, that our victorious arms carried terror and conquest to the furthest regions of the earth, and reduced France, our constant, and once formidable enemy, to the low state in which we see her at present. It was reserved for his majesty to become the sovereign of these imperial realms at a period, when

* Vide appendix.

they were dreaded and respected by all their neighbours; when british fleets sailed unresisted to the remotest regions; when her armies marched only to enjoy victory; and when a concatenation of glorious events all tended, to exalt her power, and extend her influence and dominion; and to raise her sovereign to that pitch of prosperity, as justly formed him the greatest monarch in the universe.

The E N D.

The Appendix, to which the reader has been frequently referred, will be published together with the Continuation of this work.